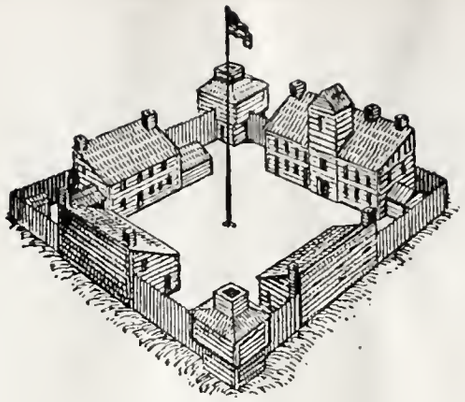

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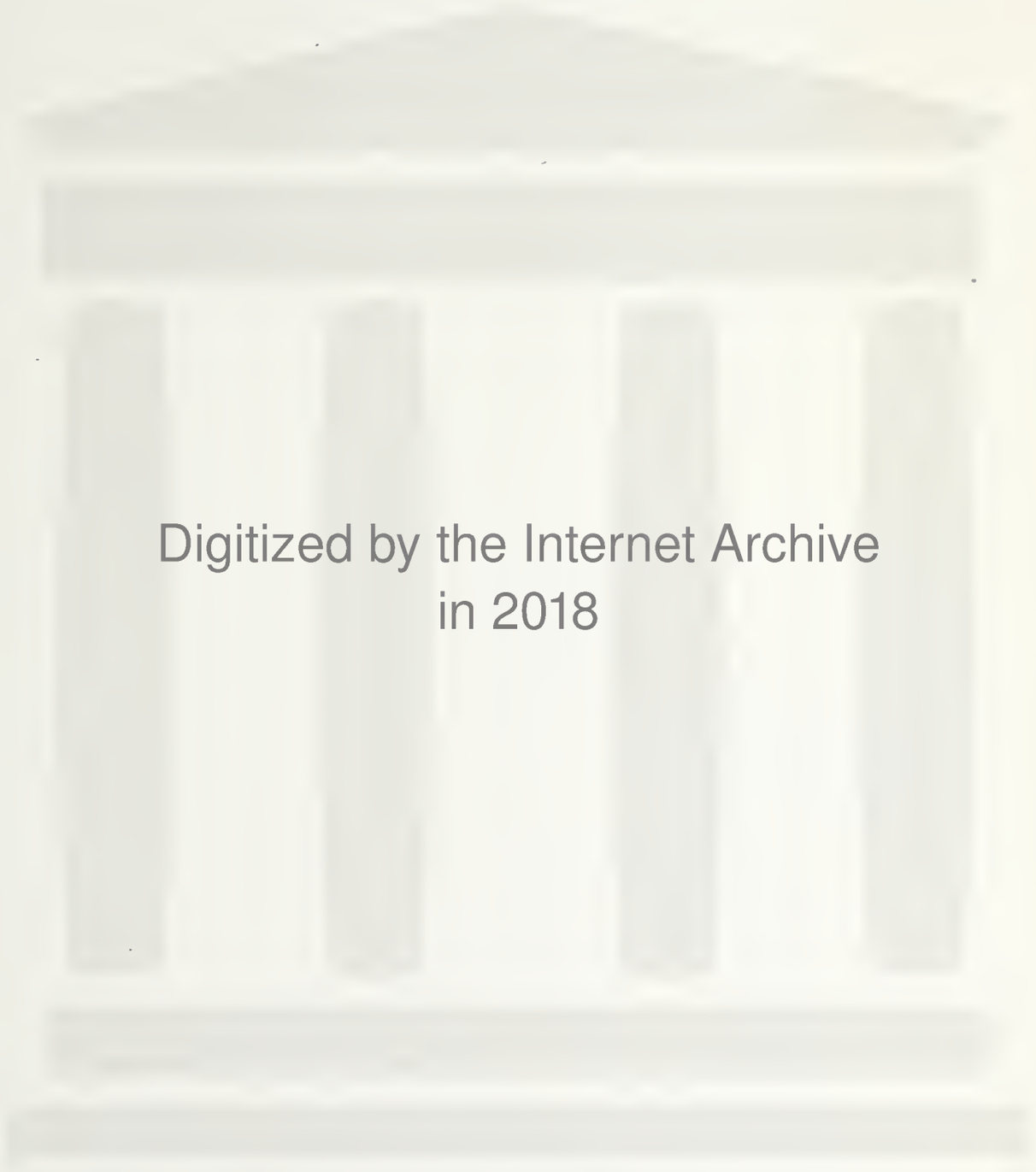
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HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Fort Wayne, Indiana

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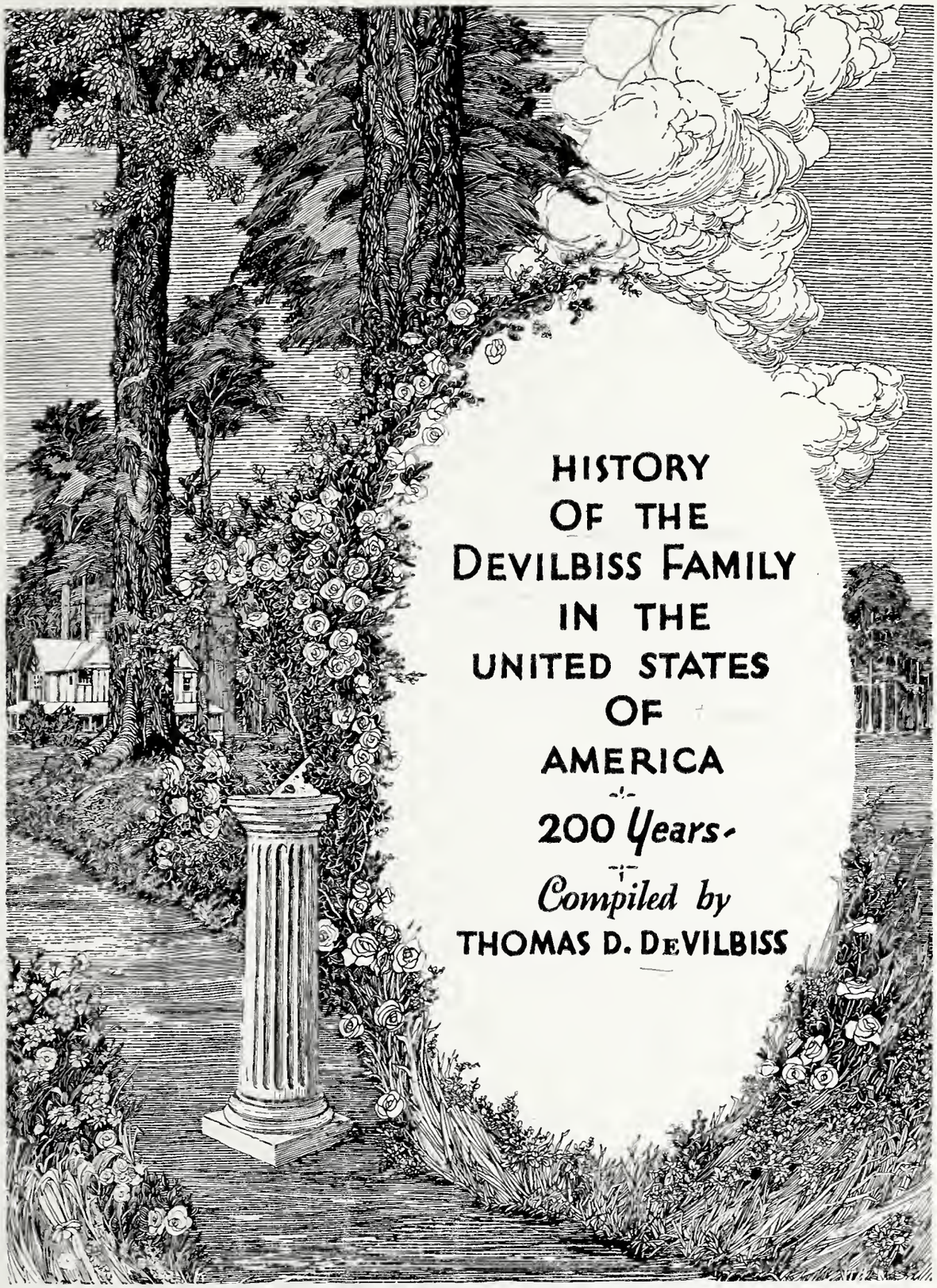
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Publishers
1927


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VISION

This Data
is Gratefully Dedicated
to the
Loving Memory
of
My Father Alexander and
Mother Lydia



HISTORY OF THE DEVILBISS FAMILY IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

200 Years

Compiled by

THOMAS D. DEVILBISS

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8-V THOMAS D. DeVILBISS

Prefatory Note

THE information on the following pages has been collected by the writer over a period of several years. In his capacity as traveling engineer forty-three states and several foreign countries were traversed, and in many towns the city directory was consulted for the name DeVilbiss, or Devilbiss. Wherever the name was found the persons were interviewed, and in every case where ancestors were known it was learned that the ancestors came from Maryland. This led to the conclusion that all the DeVilbisses and Devilbisses came from one common ancestor in America. Special trips have been made to Maryland and the early home of the Devilbisses has been found. A trip to the Devilbisses in Missouri has also given valuable information.

This book is passed on to the living members of the family, with the hope that they will keep up the record for their future generations. The preparation of this record is provided with extra leaves for the convenience of any person who wishes to make his own additions. The different generations are indicated with Roman numerals so that indentical names in different generations may be distinguished from one another. The names of some of the older persons marked with an asterisk (*) are personally known to the writer.

I gratefully acknowledge the assistance of the many friends who furnished the information by correspondence and by interviews.

THOMAS D. DEVILBISS.

Fort Wayne, Ind., May, 1927.

THE early history of the DeVilbiss family in America is laid in a most historic spot, Frederick County, Maryland. From Colonial days until the present time the history of Frederick has been linked with many events of national importance. As environment has much to do with the development of character, a mention of a few incidents indicating the thought and spirit which animated those early settlers of whom the DeVilbiss family was a part, may interest the reader.

While dominated by a modern, progressive spirit, Frederick still possesses that historic atmosphere which summons memories of her glorious past. The old stone tavern still stands on West Patrick street, where great statesmen, such as Henry Clay, Andrew Jackson, Daniel Webster and other leaders of their day stopped and discussed important affairs of the Colonies. Frederick was also the home of Barbara Fritchie, the heroine of John Greenleaf Whittiers' Civil war poem. In 1791, when Washington was a guest at the tavern, the community desired to do him every courtesy, so Barbara Fritchie, then Barbara Hauer, loaned her set of Liverpool china to adorn his table. Other prominent men who frequently visited the community were Franklin, Braddock and LaFayette. It is also the birthplace of Admiral Winfield Scott Schley, the hero of Santiago in the war with Spain. His record in naval history is crowded with service to the country.

Governor Thomas Johnson, a friend and business associate of George Washington, is also another important personage, born in this community. At the time of the Revolution he was a prominent member of Congress and nominated George Washington for Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army. He was the first Governor of Maryland and was a member of the commission that laid out the city of Washington, the capitol of our nation.

Francis Scott Key, the great patriot and author of the national anthem, "The Star Spangled Banner," made his home there. It was a stronghold in Colonial days and later a battle ground between Union forces under General Lew Wallace and the Confederates under General Early, in which engagments an attack on Washington was prevented, thereby saving the capitol.

The activities of the DeVilbisses were directed to farming and milling, rather than to politics or statesmanship, but did equally as constructive a work towards developing the country and rendering public service.

The pioneers of these early days were sturdy men of principle and courage, with energy to perform that which they proposed. Their ideals were set high and firm. Their patriotism was enthusiastic and steadfast. It was in this man-building atmosphere of good old Frederick county where the DeVilbiss family first set stakes in America. It is accordingly not surprising that following generations continued in honorable pursuits and service to the communities in which the latter lived. In the accounts of succeeding families you will note there were founders of towns, leaders in progressive movements for public good, inventors, manufacturers, doctors, preachers, dentists and other professions giving various evidences of services for the general betterment of the communities in which they lived.

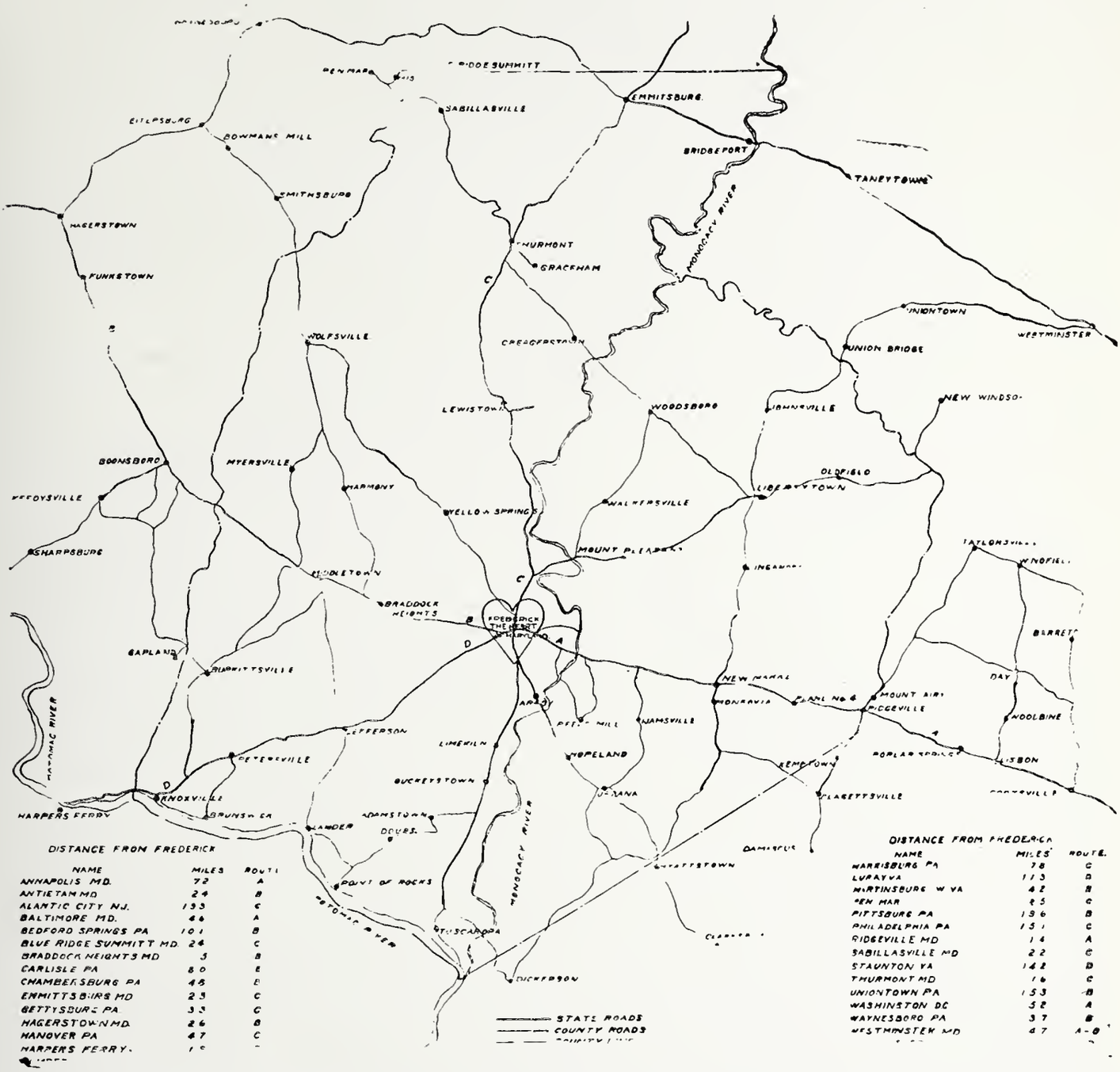
The writer has personally known Thos. D. DeVilbiss, the compiler of this book, for over twenty years, also one of his brothers and other members of the families. It is a privilege and a pleasure to add this page to this interesting account of the DeVilbisses, one of the first families in America and most worthy citizens.

C. H. DAVIES.


MAP OF
FREDERICK
MARYLAND
VILLA
ESTATES
PROSPECT
HOOD COLLEGE
COLLEGE
PARK
W
E
S

Frederick County Road Map

Showing Routes and Distances



DISTANCE FROM FREDERICK

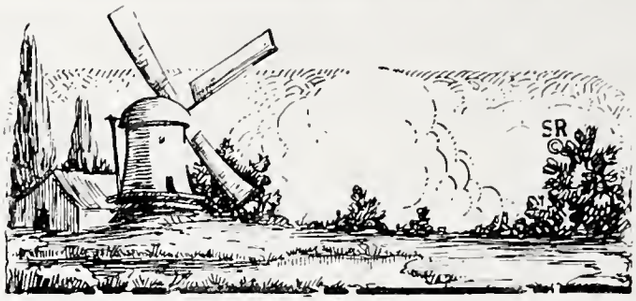
NAME	MILES	ROUTE
ANNAPOLIS MD.	72	A
ANTIETAM MD	24	B
ATLANTIC CITY NJ.	193	C
BALTIMORE MD.	46	A
BEDFORD SPRINGS PA	101	B
BLUE RIDGE SUMMIT MD.	24	C
BRADDOCK HEIGHTS MD	5	B
CARLISLE PA	80	E
CHAMBERSBURG PA	45	E
EMMITTSBURG MD	23	C
GETTYSBURG PA	35	C
HAGERSTOWN MD.	26	B
HANOVER PA	47	C
HARPERS FERRY.	1[illegible]	-

DISTANCE FROM FREDERICK

NAME	MILES	ROUTE
HARRISBURG PA	78	C
LURAY VA	113	D
MARTINSBURG W VA	42	B
BEN MAR	25	C
PITTSBURG PA	196	B
PHILADELPHIA PA	151	C
RIDGEVILLE MD	14	A
SABILLASVILLE MD	22	C
STAUNTON VA	142	D
THURMONT MD	16	C
UNIONTOWN PA	153	B
WASHINGTON DC	52	A
WAYNESBORO PA	37	B
WESTMINSTER MD	47	A-B

To Washington, Route A, turn right at Ridgeville. The trip can also be made through Araby, Urbana, Hyattstown, etc. There is a third route to the Capital, through Buckeystown and Dickersen.

We are indebted to the courtesy of The News and The Frederick Post for the use of these Maps.



Origin of the Name DeVilbiss

"WHAT'S in a name?" As the following records will show, all indications point back to Maryland. The older members of the family remember stories of the family coming from Alsace and from Holland. Tradition holds that Casper Devilbiss and his brothers were born in Alsace. Casper possessed a Dutch family Bible. Hence the name likely came from Holland. Where did Holland get the name?

The last syllable of the name—"biss"—is the Holland and German for "bite." "Devil's-bit" may be found in the International Encyclopaedia. It is a name given to the plant called "Scabious." The Scabious is an European plant used during the Middle Ages as a remedy for skin diseases. The root of the devil's-bit scabious "is very abruptly pointed, on which account Middle Age superstition regarded it as bitten off by the devil, out of envy because of its usefulness to mankind. A number of varieties are in common cultivation as ornaments." So we infer that this is the origin of the name Devilbiss in the lower Rhine valley.

The change of the pronunciation from Devil-biss to De-Vilbiss is credited to John Wesley DeVilbiss (5-IV) upon his arrival to the republic of Texas as a missionary. The accident, in which his name appeared in the list of ministers with a capital "V" at a time when he was absent, is told in its place in his sketch. When Alexander Devilbiss (4-IV) came from Ohio to Indiana in 1843 he followed his brother, John Wesley (5-IV), who had accepted the change a few months previously. The change to a capital "V" in the name became general except for those who remained in Maryland and those who went to Canton, Missouri, and at the present writing the younger generation in Canton are beginning to change to the capital "V."

I. Casper---And Earliest Records

OUR earliest records take us back to Casper Devilbiss, the great-great-grandfather of the writer. Tradition tells us that two or three brothers came over many years before the Declaration of Independence. From the will copied below we know that one of these brothers was Casper. From the records in the library at Frederick, Md., we learn that John was one of the earliest settlers. He settled in 1745. It will be observed that Casper's will was written March 16, 1777, and probated April 6, 1777. We know his death occurred between these two dates in 1777, even though we do not have his age or date of birth. But since he was a man with a family it would lead one to believe that he could have been fifty years old at the time of his death. According to this reckoning the two men were living at the same time, and very likely were brothers.

The story is told that Casper and his brothers worked their way across the Atlantic. They did not work on the ship, but upon their arrival their passage was paid for by some plantation owner who bid for the shortest term of service. The men then worked for the plantation owner until this obligation was paid off in labor. Baltimore was the landing port.

In the history of the early settlers of Frederick county, Maryland, which is kept in the city library at Frederick, there is to be found some early information of the Devilbiss family. They lived in the Lewiston district or township. This township was "bounded on the north by Creagerston, Woodsborough on the east, Frederick on the south and Caloctin on the west. This portion of the country was settled about 1745, and the early families were those of John Devilbiss and the Hills. In this district was the famous Devilbiss camp meeting ground near the foot of the mountain. Once when Elder Grub was holding a big camp meeting a mob of mountaineers came down and raised a disturbance. "They let down the ropes of the tent. Elder Grub tarred the ropes to learn who was making the mischief. A local popular song resulted:

"Old daddy Grub tarred the ropes,
Old daddy Grub tarred the ropes,
Glory Halleluiah!"

THE oldest official record is the will of Casper. A letter from the register of wills for Frederick county, Frederick, Maryland, under date of January 10, 1925, reads as follows:

"Mr. Thomas DeVilbiss, 2636 South Anthony boulevard, Fort Wayne, Ind. Dear Sir—Your letter of January 8, 1925, enclosing $1.00 for a certified copy of the will of Casper Devilbiss, probated April 6, 1777, is received, and in compliance with your request am enclosing the same herewith. In regard to your inquiry as to the date of probate of the will of George Devilbiss would state that same is August 23, 1813. Very truly yours. (Signed) *George Edw. Smith, Register of Wills."

It will be seen from this letter that the following certified copy of "last will and testament of Casper Devilbiss" is authentic.

LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF CASPER DEVILBISS

"Be it rememebered that this, sixteenth day of the third month, commonly called March, in the year of our Lord, one thousand seven hundred and seventy-seven, I, Casper Devilbiss, of Frederick county and province of Maryland, being weak in body, but of sound and perfect disposing mind and memory, and calling to mind the uncertainty of this transoldery life, do make this my last will and testament, touching the disposal of what temporal estate I have, hereby revoking and disannuling all former will or wills heretofore by me made, and this only to be taken for my last will and testament and none other. Imprimis I will that my body be decently buried at the discretion of my executors hereafter named. Secondly, that all my just debts be fully paid and satisfied. Thirdly, I give and bequeath unto my beloved wife, Anne Devilbiss, one large Dutch Bible, one mare, which is called by the name of my wife's mare, one woman's saddle, one good feather bed and all the furniture thereunto belonging, and also one-third part of all my personal estate forever. Item I give and bequeath unto my son, George Devilbiss, his heirs and assigns, forever all that tract or parcel of land called Bill's Hunting Lot, containing one hundred and fifty acres, with all the buildings and improvements thereunto belonging or in anyways appertaining. Item, I give and bequeath unto my son, John Devilbiss, his heirs and assigns,

forever all those tracts or parcels of land called Mill Seat resurvey on Bill's Meadow and Dear Park, containing about seven hundred and two acres, with all the buildings and improvements thereunto belonging or in anyways appertaining. Item, I give and bequeath unto my son, Casper Devilbiss, and his heirs and assigns, forever all that tract or parcel of land called the resurvey on Leonard's range, containing about six hundred and fifty acres of land, with all the buildings and improvements thereunto belonging, or in anywise appertaining, also I give and bequeath unto my son, Casper Devilbiss, one hundred pounds current money that is to be raised or levied out of my moveable estate. Item, it is my will and desire that all the tracts of land or parcels of land which I own by the name of Chestnutt Spring and the addition to Chestnutt Spring and the house and lot in Tawney Town, known by number Z, with my two plantations on his Lordships Mannor on Monocacy be sold by my executors hereafter named and the moneys arising from the said sale to be applied as part of my personal estate. Item I give and bequeath unto all my children, namely, George Devilbiss, John Devilbiss, Casper Devilbiss, Ann Ramsbergh, Susannah Ramsbergh and Barbarah Fleming, to them and their heirs and assigns forever, all the remainder of my real and personal estate which is not yet willed and bequeathed to be equally divided amongst the above named children. Item, I hereby make this reserve that if my son, Casper Devilbiss, should die before he come to the age of twenty-one years, without lawful begotten heirs, then his part of the estate bequeathed him shall be equally divided between the other of his brothers and sisters. Lastly, I do constitute and appoint my beloved wife, Ann Devilbiss, and my friend, William Ballinger, my executors to see this my last will and testament, truly executed. In witness whereof, I have hereunto sett my hand and seal, the day and year first above written.

his
CASPER C. DEVILBISS.
mark.

Signed, sealed, published and declared by the said Casper Devilbiss as his last will and testament in the presence of us.

John Ranabryer, John Snook, Richd. Snook."

"True copy, test: *George Edw. Smith, Register of Wills for Frederick County."

THE early Devilbisses were millers and farmers. According to information received from various sources we learn there were three brothers who came to America—the two already mentioned, and a third who settled in Pennsylvania and spelled his name with an "i" thus, "Divilbiss." .

In the summer of 1926 the writer visited the Methodist Church yard, located on the edge of the city of Lewiston, Maryland, and talked with the sexton, *Mr. Kelly. At that place several of the graves bore markers of Devilbisses, who died in the eighteen-forties. *Mr. Kelly had purchased one of the Devilbiss farms, and had torn down the remains of the last two old Devilbiss mills. While engaged in this conversation an elderly gentleman came along and said that if the roads had not been impassable he could have taken the writer three miles further and then two miles off the pike to an old Devilbiss farm, on which was located a private Devilbiss burying ground. To his knowledge some of the markers were over a hundred years old. One of the old landmarks of the Devilbiss family, still remaining, is a bridge in Frederick county still known as the *Devilbiss bridge.

(I.)

The children of Casper C. Devilbiss and his wife Anne, according to the will, are:

1-II GEORGE DEVILBISS, the writer's great grandfather. His will follows below.

2-II JOHN DEVILBISS.

3-II CASPER DEVILBISS, a minor.

4-II ANN RAMSBERGH.

5-II SUSANNAH RAMSBERGH. They probably married brothers.

6-II BARBARAH FLEMING.

They form the second generation in the chart.

1-II GEORGE DEVILBISS, son of CASPER.

ALL WE know of George and his family is what we find in his will and the will of his son, Casper, the marriage records of Frederick county, Maryland, and the information we obtained from the biography of his grandson, the Rev. John Wesley DeVilbiss. The will of George (1-II) was made March 23, 1813, and probated August 23, 1813, so we infer that the date of his death was between the months of March and August.

CERTIFIED COPY OF LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF GEORGE DEVILBISS

"In the name of God Amen, this twenty-third day of March, one thousand eight hundred and thirteen, I, George Devilbiss of Casper, of Frederick county and State of Maryand, being weak and body, but of perfect mind and memory, thanks be unto God for the same calling unto mind, the uncertainty of this life and knowing it is appointed for all men once to die, do make and ordain this, my last will and testament, that is to say principally and first of all, recommending my soul into the hands of Almighty God, that gave it to be disposed of according to His divine will, and my body I recommend it unto earth to be buried in a Christian-like and decent manner at the discretion of my executors hereafter named, nothing doubting, but at the general resurrection to receive the same again by the power of Almighty God and as touching such worldly estate where with it has pleased God to bless me in this life, I give and dispose of in the manner and form following:

First of all, do I order that all my just debts and funeral charges be paid off and satisfied.

Secondly, I give and bequeath unto my two sons, Alexander and Casper Devilbiss, all that plantation which they now occupy known by the name of Benjamin's Advice, containing 236 acres with all the buildings and improvements there, mills and water courses, with every appurtenance thereunto belonging. Also I give unto my son, Alexander, after my death a negro girl named Rachel and to my son, Casper, a negro boy named Sam by making full proviso for me while I live, otherwise to be applied to my use,

and in consequence they should not agree about a division let a majority to be chosen for that purpose, allowing Casper the first choice, except they should agree to sell.

Item, it is my will and desire that they lay by nearly fifteen pounds for the use of their sister, Rebecca as they find she stands in need.

Thirdly, I give and bequeath unto my two sons, Alexander and Casper, all that plantation I bought from Jacob Protsman, with every purtenance thereunto belonging or in anywise appertaining to the only use and behalf of my three grand children, namely, my daughter, Rebecca's child Elizabeth, and my two grand sons of George, deceased, allowing my daughter's child an equal share from the time my daughter-in-law has forfeited in renting, otherwise to be left to the discretion of my two sons whether they give them anything or else thy two only one share, and the rest to the use of my daughter and her child, to be left in the hands of my two sons to their use when they shall arrive to age.

Fourthly, it is my will and desire that my two grandsons of my son George shall be put to suitable trades when they arrive to the age of sixteen for the better preparation of a livelihood till they arrive to an age when they are to receive the proper—

Fifthly, it is my will and desire that all the real and personal property what is yet left in my hands should be equally divided either by division or sale, as they find themselves to agree, allowing my son John one doll—

Sixthly and lastly, I appoint my two sons, Alexander and Casper Devilbiss, for executors of the within ratifying and confirming this and no other to be my last will and testament, utterly disallowing all others heretofore. In witness whereof, I have hereunto fixed my hand and seal the day and year above written.

GEORGE DEVILBISS (Seal.)

In presence of
Christian Kuhn,
Jacob Engler,
Joseph Ogle.

True copy, test: (Signed) *George Edw. Smith, Register of Wills for Frederick county.

Rec. in Liber R. B.

No. 1, folio 413, etc.

No mention is made of his wife. We infer she had already died.

The names of George's (1-II) children from his will are:

1-III JOHN. See sketch of his life.

2-III GEORGE, deceased at the time of writing the will. He had two sons.

3-III ALEXANDER, grandfather of the writer. Sketch of his life follows. He with Casper are the executors.

4-III CASPER. See sketch of his life.

5-III REBECCA. A widow, with her daughter Elizabeth. See sketch of her life.

These children form the third generation.

The Present Family in Maryland

SINCE we are not carrying on the Maryland branch of the family in the compass of this booklet the present Maryland Devilbisses are cited here before we go westward with the family.

There are only a few Devilbiss families remaining in Frederick county. An *Edwin Devilbiss is cashier of the Walkersville bank. *J. Clark Devilbiss is in the grocery business in Frederick. He told the writer about *Mrs. Getsbough, his aunt. She knew many old traditions of the family, and knew that the first Devilbiss brothers in America were of Dutch origin. She spoke of them as "stiff-necked, hard-headed Dutch Democrats." Her age would place her in the fifth generation. She was born to Joshua Devilbiss March 10, 1844. She gave the writer one of her photographs. When this photograph was later shown to *Mrs. Lida DeVilbiss Gutchess of Toledo, Ohio, the resemblance between the two ladies was so striking that Mrs. Gutchess motored to Frederick to call upon *Mrs. Getsbough. She found her to be a woman of very pleasant personality, and living in comfortable surroundings. *Mrs. Getsbough said she had a nephew in the Presbyterian min-

istry, the Rev. Clarence Baker, then pastor of the First Ward Presbyterian Church of Syracuse, New York. A number of the Devilbisses live in Baltimore. One member of the family, *J. C. DeVilbiss, lives in Washington, D. C., and is engaged in the brokerage business.

1-III JOHN DEVILBISS.

JOHN Devilbiss, first son of George (1-II) and the grandson of Casper Devilbiss, who came to America with his two brothers from Alsace and settled in Frederick county, Maryland, between 1727 and 1740.

John (1-III) was born 1775 in Frederick county, Maryland. He married a Miss Elder, a relative of Archbishop Elder. To this union was born two daughters, Nellie and Bessie. Bessie died when she was a young woman. Nellie married a Mr. Hobs and raised a family of ten children, and their family remained in Maryland.

After the death of John's first wife he married Mary O'Ferrall, of India, and to this union was born John, Rebecca, George, Alexander, Andrew and Henry.

In 1838 his sons, John and Alexander, went West—John to Missouri and Alexander to Davenport, Iowa. The following year John, Sr., (4-III), with the rest of his family and two slaves, one by the name of Fannie and the other Gus, left Frederick county, Maryland, for Missouri by steamboat on the Ohio and Mississippi rivers. They landed at Tully, just north of Canton, Mo., June 19, 1839. He engaged in farming. He died January, 1847, at the age of 72 years.

By referring to John's father's will, on page No. 20, you will see that he was cut off with one dollar with no reason given. Information from a reliable source reveals that both his wives were Catholics, which is undoubtedly the reason he was disinherited. Alexander, Casper and George's two sons were well provided for. Only a living was provided for Rebecca.

1-IV JOHN DEVILBISS. John Devilbiss, first son of John Devilbiss and Mary O'Ferrall, was born in Frederick county, Maryland. He married Margrite Bland. Children, Ellen, Eliza,

George and William. Moved with his family to Winters, California.

2-IV REBECCA DEVILBISS, born in Frederick county, Maryland, and married Thomas McDermott. No children.

3-IV GEORGE O. DEVILBISS, born in Frederick county, Maryland, July 21, 1813. Married Miss Elizabeth Barnett. Children: *Mary C., John James (died in infancy), Annie E. and Rebecca. Annie E. married W. K. Boudreau, a French-Canadian; Rebecca married W. K. Marchand. Rebecca died in November, 1924. Mary C., who now lives in Canton, Mo., never married. The writer is indebted to her for much information in this history. George O. died near Canton, Mo., July 17, 1901.

4-IV ALEXANDER DEVILBISS, born in Frederick county, Maryland, and married Rebecca Brown. He died when only twenty-two years old near Canton, Mo. He had two sons, John Andrew and Alexander. Alexander was born after his father died.

The writer visited Alexander (2-V) Devilbiss in 1916, found him to be a very intelligent and interesting gentleman and a staunch believer in the Catholic religion. Mr. Devilbiss was married twice, his first wife's name being Martha Cothell. She was the mother of ten children. After her death he married Miss Ollie Cummings. She died of cancer in 1924. No children were born to the second marriage. Mr. Devilbiss now lives at the St. Mary's Hospital, Quincy, Illinois.

5-IV JOHN A. DEVILBISS, fifth child of Alexander (2-V) and Martha Devilbiss, was born at Canton, Mo., May 3, 1875. He attended public school in Missouri and California, high school at Quincy, Illinois, and in 1890 entered the Quincy College, then known as the St. Francis Solanus College. August 20, 1895, he entered the Jesuit Novitiate at Florissant, Mo., and was ordained a priest at the St. Louis University, St. Louis, Mo., in 1909. At the present time he is doing parish work in St. Louis and lives at 2721 Pine street.

The writer had the pleasure of meeting the Rev. John A. DeVilbiss about 1908 at the St. Louis University. I found him to be an affable, courteous gentleman and devoted to his religious work.

5-IV ANDREW DEVILBISS, born in Frederick county, Maryland, and married Mary Bevans of Maryland, to which union was born two sons, Henry and George Andrew. He moved with his father to Missouri. During the Civil War he enlisted in the Confederate army at New Orleans, La., and was accidentally killed by a shell bursting in camp near Florence, Alabama. He was of a roving disposition, spoke several languages and was a natural born poet. See letter from Hattie DeVilbiss, his granddaughter.

6-IV HENRY DEVILBISS, born in Frederick county, Maryland, July 9, 1823. Married Miss Ananthis Durkee. He had two sons—Frank (dead) and *Henry, who is living in Canton. There were several other children, who died in infancy.

The writer received a letter from Andrew's (5-IV) granddaughter of Los Angeles, California, dated December 12, 1914, which reads in part as follows:

"Your kind and interesting letter came some time ago and I wish to thank you. I did not know that the three brothers came from Alsace, but I had heard that they were of German origin. My great-grandfather married an Irish woman in Maryland and they had five sons and one daughter. Andrew was my grandfather, and he married a Maryland girl. (Mary Bevans). My father, Henry, is the elder of their two boys. My grandfather was, as I have many times heard, the genius and wit of the family, spoke seven languages and was widely traveled and a 'prince among men,' but not a good family man, for he never accumulated—never tried to—but spent most of the time roving until the war broke out. He enlisted and was killed, so that left my father and uncle and grandmother, who had spent their time in Missouri, Mississippi and Louisiana to look for themselves.

"The year following the war my father was 17 years old, so they came over land to California, it taking six months, and settled in Sacramento. Some other DeVilbiss relatives came at the same time and have always remained here.

"My father married a Miss Julia Lowell, of the well-known family of that name, and he was very successful financially for many years.

"Many of the name have come to California of late, but for many years I believe my father and uncle and two cousins were all that were here. For a long time I was the only one in Los Angeles, but now there are several whom I do not know. I quite often get their mail by mistake. There are five in our family living at present, and all in Los Angeles, excepting one.

"I have been married, but it was an unfortunate affair and I carry my own name. I am thirty-two years old and have two sons and a daughter and support them as a stenographer. At present I have a position with four attorneys, where I have been for two years, and where you can always locate me when in Los Angeles." HATTIE DEVILBISS.

(Signed) 435 Title Insurance Bldg., Fifth and Spring Streets, Los Angeles, Calif."

2-III GEORGE DEVILBISS

George Devilbiss, second son of George (1-II) was born in Frederick county, Maryland. He was married to Matilda Nelson, March 9, 1811, in Frederick county. He died a short time before his father died in 1813, leaving two sons, names not given, which were provided for in the grandfather's will. They must have been born in 1811 and 1813, as the father was married in 1811 and died two years later.





The Devilbiss family moving from Maryland to Ohio in 1821 traveled at the rate of 8 miles per day. It took them over 40 days to get to the place they settled, now known as Alexandria, Ohio.

WE'RE TRAVELING FAST

In my boyhood days we traveled slow
Through the mud, the rain or the drifted snow;
Seems quite a while, yet not long ago
We were all very satisfied—at least it seemed so.
It was never too dark, the moon never too low
That we didn't see our girls off ten miles or so.

Oh the girls in those days were pious and sweet;
They seemed just like angels, lovely and neat;
We loved them, adored them, they seemed so complete.
Their dresses hung lovely and down to their feet.
But oh what a change now everyone sees
They paint those lovely faces and even their knees.

We first traveled horse-back—Then came the "Shay"
Later "four-wheelers" were thought very gay,
Soon "Rubber-tired buggies" became quite the fad
To go Buggy Riding was joy to maiden and lad.
Well bred horses would pull these rigs fast
But soon they too became a thing of the past.

Bright "Safety Bicycles" next were our pride
It was sport to take your girl for a "Tandem" ride.

Then came the Auto with power and pep,
One place to another was but a hop-skip and step
With plenty of gas always ready to go
Even now they are getting a little "too slow".

Now comes flying in Airplanes, over building and tree,
Leave here this morning—In Paris at three.
What will come next we sure do not know
When like poor "Dobbin" Planes are considered too slow.

Perhaps we may stay wherever we are,
And be able to hear and see things both near and far
With Electricity and Radio we're living so fast,
Even distance and time may become a thing of the past.

Thos. D. DeVilbiss.

3-III ALEXANDER DEVILBISS

Son of George, Grandfather of the Writer

ALEXANDER Devilbiss, son of George, was born in Frederick, Maryland, January 18, 1780. He died in Alexandria, Ohio, December 10, 1831. He lived just a year after he laid out the town which bears his name.

Alexander married Priscilla McClain May 1, 1808, in Bedford, Pennsylvania. She is distinguished as the first one to bring Scotch blood into the family, so far we can at present determine. Her birthplace was Bedford, Pennsylvania.

In the will of his father, Alexander with his brother were made executors of the estate. After settling the estate Alexander, with his wife Priscilla, four sons and one daughter, moved over the Allegheny mountains into Licking county, Ohio. The date of this move is determined by the birth records. John Wesley, the fourth son, was born in August, 1818, in Frederick, Maryland, and the next child, Elizabeth Rebecca, the second daughter, was born in July, 1821, in Licking county, Ohio. Hence we know that the family moved into Ohio between 1818 and 1821, probably in 1821.

Alexander was a slave holder. It will be recalled that he was bequeathed a slave by his father. His religious convictions eventually led him to give his slaves their freedom. He was a class leader in the Methodist Church. It was at the time he gave his slaves their liberty that he sold out all his belongings in Maryland and crossed the Cumberland and Allegheny mountains to Licking county, Ohio, in a covered wagon. There he bought a tract of three hundred acres and built a mill on a small stream.

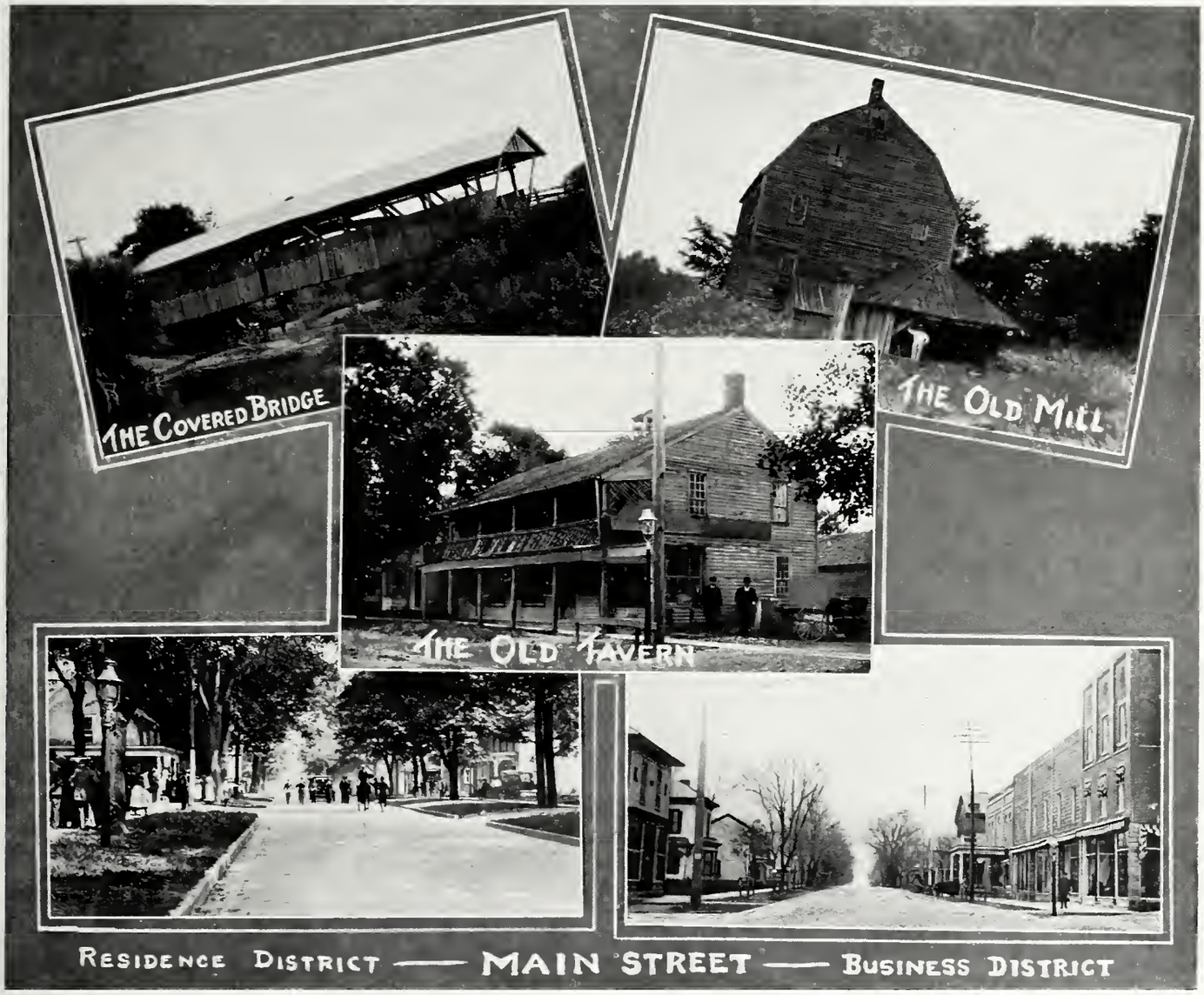
From the recorder at Newark, Ohio, we learn that he platted out a town on his farm, in 1830, and named it Alexandria. Later the Ohio Central railroad was built through this town. It is still a thriving town twenty-five miles northeast of Columbus. The citizens of Alexandria at the present time are making plans to observe the one hundredth anniversary of their town, and are planning to erect a memorial in honor of the founder, Alexander Devilbiss.

BY HIS own request Alexander was buried close to his mill site on his own ground. Later his wife, Priscilla, was buried by his side. The writer visited these graves of his grandfather and grandmother in 1906. They were then marked with marble slabs. On his visit in 1924 he found that this property had changed hands. The man who had bought it had destroyed the stones, broken them and used them in concrete for a building. In 1925 the citizens hunted for the graves and found some of the remains, and also a piece of stone from the marker of the father, which they took to the cemetery and buried by the side of his son William.

An old settler told the writer that in those early days the farmers had to depend upon one another for the use of tools and wagons. He said Alexander Devilbiss bought two articles of everything, so that he could have one to loan and yet have one for himself. He had two forks, two shovels, two wagons, etc. His home was an humble cottage built of logs. He was well known throughout the entire community because of his mill, and is remembered as industrious, self-reliant and frugal.

A clipping from the Johnstown Independent, December 4, 1924, in the Alexandria news section reads as follows: "During the past two weeks work has been going on which may well be considered one of the most public spirited projects undertaken in the community—the search for the remains of Alexander Debilbiss, founder of Alexandria, that they may be laid with proper respect in the local cemetery.

Alexander Devilbiss laid out the town of Alexandria in the spring of 1830, he being the owner that time of all the land now comprising the town plot and much surrounding territory. When Alexander Devilbiss died his body was interred in the Devilbiss burying ground, which lay south of the town on the bluff overlooking Raccoon valley, on the land now owned by Mrs. Grace Proctor. It had been made his special desire that he be buried here, overlooking the millrace which he had worked hard to bring to completion, traces of which are still discernable running along the south side of the town. As the years passed the Devilbiss family, one by one, left the community and no relatives were left to take



Views of Alexandria, Ohio, the town founded and named after Alexander Devilbiss, who settled there in 1821. The upper views show a few still remaining land-marks of Colonial days. The views of Main street show the town very much as it is today. We are indebted to Prof. Geo. I. Cash, of Alexandria for this interesting group of pictures.

care of the little burial plot, and for many years there has been no trace left to mark the spot. Older residents can remember the graves and have located the place where *Dr. George B. Cash and a number of other generous citizens have been working hard for some time excavating to find the remains. Thanksgiving day they found the remains of a child, a member of the Devilbiss family, and secured a skull, the only remaining trace of the body. The excavating will continue with the hope of securing the remains of the adults who were buried in the plot, that these may be removed to a more honorable place in Maple Grove Cemetery, where a monument will be erected to their memory. Plans are already being made for the centennial celebration to take place in 1930, and it is most proper that this should be begun by paying these long-delayed honors to the founder of the town.

The children of Alexander DeVilbiss (3-III) and Priscilla McClain are:

1-IV LEMUEL, born April 12, 1810, in Frederick, Md. Died December 4, 1818.

2-IV WILLIAM, born November 15, 1811, in Frederick, Md. He married Ruth Carpenter on September 11, 1831. Died in 1863 or 1864.

3-IV MARY ANN, born May 26, 1814, in Frederick, Md. She married Albert Noel in 1844.

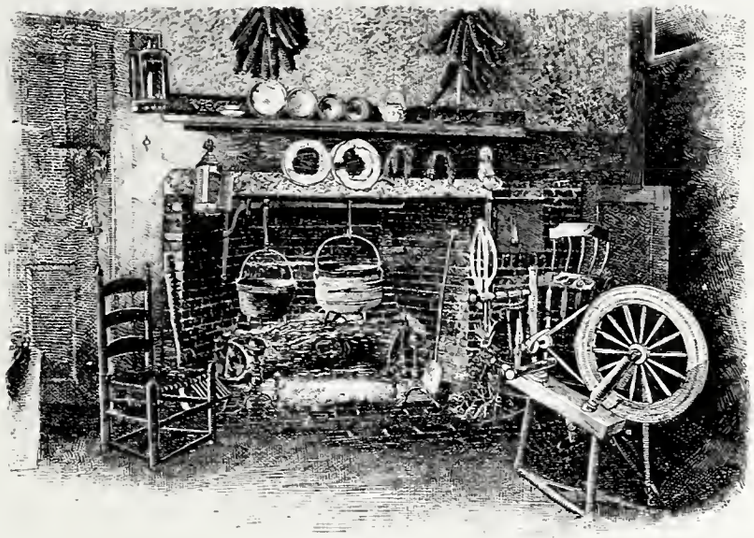
4-IV ALEXANDER (father of the writer), born August 8, 1816, in Frederick, Md. He married Lydia Clogston on January 27, 1839. Died January 19, 1861.

5-IV JOHN WESLEY, born August 28, 1818, in Frederick, Md. He married Talitha Menafee June 5, 1824. Widower August, 1846. He married Martha Kerr September 28, 1847. Died January 31, 1885.

*6-IV ELIZABETH REBECCA, born July 6, 1821, in Licking county, Ohio. She married Alexander Clogston March 18, 1841. Died November 27, 1901.

7-IV HESTER ANN, born December 14, 1842. She married William Foster September 18, 1845. Died?—

These children form the fourth generation. A sketch of each one follows:



The Fire Place of the Good Old Days

4-III CASPER DEVILBISS

Casper Devilbiss, the fourth son of George (1-II).

YOU will see by the terms of his father's will on page No. 20 that Casper and Alexander, my grandfather, were made executors of his will. Casper married Mary Bostian, February 20, 1810, in Frederick county, Maryland. The will of Casper Devilbiss (2-III) was probated December 29, 1835. His sons were Casper, Levi, Thomas and John. He makes a bequest to Caty Angel, a daughter, of all lands he holds in the state of Ohio, Montgomery county, recorded fourth day of November, 1829. He also mentions daughters, Susanna and Nancy Nicodemus. The date of probation of his will makes it clear that Casper died in Frederick county, Maryland, in 1835. His son, Thomas, was the first one of that name in the family.

5-III REBECCA DEVILBISS.

Rebecca Devilbiss, only daughter of George (1-II), was born in Frederick county, Maryland. Married George Devilbiss, her cousin, July 16, 1805. I have been told that she had red hair. Her husband died before her father in 1813. She had one child, Elizabeth, who was provided for in the grandfather's will.

1-IV LEMUEL DeVILBISS

Lemuel Devilbiss, the first child of Alexander (3-III) and Priscillia McClain, was born April 12, 1810. He died at eight years of age, December 4, 1818, in Frederick, Md.

2-IV WILLIAM DeVILBISS

William DeVillbiss was born November 15, 1811, in Frederick, Md. He married Ruth Carpenter September 11, 1831, in Licking county, Ohio. They continued to live in the same county. He died in the third or fourth year of the Civil war—'63 or '64, leaving four sons. His widow later married a man by the name of Freeman. The four sons of William DeVilbiss and Ruth Carpenter are: Lewis, Cyrus, Edson and Dr. Frank.

1-V *Lewis DeVilbiss, born January 17, 1845, in Licking county, Ohio. He married *Angeline Boyer in 1864. He was a dependable farmer and interested in the Methodist church. He died at his home near Bloomfield, Indiana, March 29, 1913. The children of Lewis DeVilbiss and Angeline Boyer are:

1-VI *RUBEN A. DeVILBISS, of Richland township.

2-VI *MRS. KATIE NEIDIGH, of Richland township.

3-VI *FREDERICK F. DeVILBISS. He was in the Rainbow Division of the World War. He first served in the trenches, then in charge of a miltary telephone station, then a musician in the army of occupation across the Rhine. At the time of writing he lives in Parsons, Kansas.

4-VI *CHARLES B. DeVILBISS, of Richland township.

5-VI *MRS. LAURA E. DAUBENSPECK, of Switz City.

6-VI *MRS. JENNIE L. DIXON,in Kansas.

7-VI *JOHN M. DeVILBISS, of Modesto, California.

8-VI *PROF. GEORGE L. DeVILBISS, of Seattle, Washington.

3-IV MARY ANN DeVILBISS

Mary Ann DeVilbiss, born May 26, 1814, in Frederick county, Md. She married Albert Noel in Licking county, Ohio, in 1844. They lived and died near Fostoria, Ohio.

Their son, *William Percival Noel, served with the Forty-ninth Ohio Volunteers during the Civil War. *James William Noel, son of William Percival Noel, is an attorney at Indianapolis, Indiana. For a biographical sketch of his life see the National Cyclopedia of American Biography.

4-IV ALEXANDER DeVILBISS

ALEXANDER DeVilbiss was born in Frederick county, Maryland, August 18, 1816. He died January 19, 1861, on his farm near Spencerville, Indiana. When about five years of age (1821) his father moved to Licking county, Ohio. At sixteen years, on the death of his father, he was apprenticed to a tanner. After working at this quite a while he made an agreement with his master for a release. Soon after he went to Tiffin, Ohio, to work at the cabinet trade. From there he returned to work on his mother's farm at Alexandria, Ohio. He had become interested in religion when fourteen years of age and continued to be an earnest Christian. In his personal habits he was strictly temperate. He was a great lover of freedom and desired freedom for the slaves. Like his father, he was liberal to the point of personal sacrifice.

He was married to Lydia Margaret Clogston in Morgan county, Ohio, January 27, 1839. Four years later, in June, 1843, they left Ohio for Michigan, but not being satisfied with the country, they left there in September of the same year and came to DeKalb county, Indiana. The long trip was made in a covered wagon. It was when he came to DeKalb county that he changed the pronunciation of his name to DeVilbiss. On arriving, a man in the road asked him his name. He got out of his wagon, crossed the road and put his foot upon the hub of the other man's wagon before he gave his answer. He explained the name he was known by in Maryland, and said he preferred the new pronunciation, and was going to make the change as he came into this new territory. This incident gives us an insight into his character. In his speech he was frank and open with all his friends and with all people.

He first bought land one mile west of Spencerville. While living here he did carpenter work in Spencerville at the sawmill and the gristmill and the dam. The latter mill and dam are still in



SPENCERVILLE GRIST MILL. Built by Alexander DeVilbiss and Aultman Bowman, about 1845, for Ruben J. Dawson. It still continues to be operated by water power from the St. Joe River.

operation. He then sold his farm and then moved into Spencerville for a short time. The first two children were born in Ohio. While in Spencerville, Laurinda, John Wesley and Alexander were born. At this time he bought the farm that was to become the homestead of the family. The land is located across the St. Joe river, a mile and a half to the southwest of Spencerville. It is in DeKalb county, on the county line, between Allen and DeKalb counties, Indiana. It consists of a strip of land formed by the Allen county line and the St. Joe river. The present owners are Geary Horn and his sister.

In 1848 he built a log house on this place and moved his family there. The house still stands, without many alterations, some three hundred feet back from the road, and in a remarkable state of preservation.



House built by Alexander DeVilbiss in 1848

THE picture was taken about 1896. Note the type of construction, the kind of roof. Seated from left to right are *Miss Zona Horn, Alton Lovejoy DeVilbiss, Mrs. Naomi DeVilbiss and her baby, Marian.

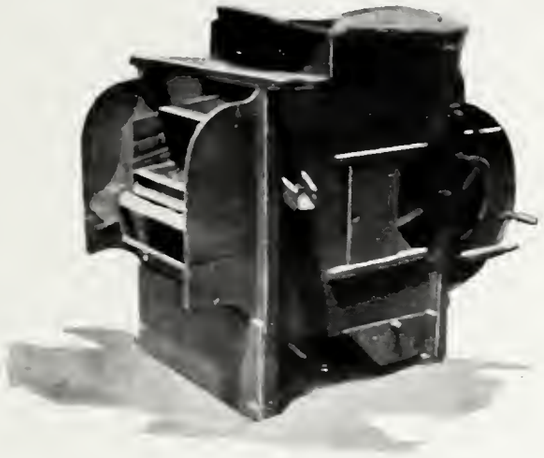
Standing from left are Alexander Bowser, a neighbor, and her son, *Mr. Darius Horn, *William DeVilbiss, *Gerry Horn, *Adella DeVilbiss, *Geather J. DeVilbiss, *Mrs. Margaret Dilly DeVilbiss, *Mrs. Rebecca Bowman, *Mrs. Darius Horn and *Dr. Allen DeVilbiss.

The house was built of logs, which Alexander himself cut down and hewed into shape.

Boards were used in the gable above the top plate and in the kitchen lean-to on the east side. The building was divided into two small rooms used for bedrooms, and a larger room used for a living room. Twenty inch boards of black walnut were used for the partitions. The doors were hand-made and likewise of black walnut. The roof boards or shingles were made by hand and the ceiling lath for plaster were split by hand. The floor of six-inch tongue and grove ash was kept clean by repeated scrubbing by the hard-working mother. Because of the large family there was a bed in the living room. Under this was a trundle-bed for the

little ones. Stoves were just beginning to take the place of open fireplaces. To cook on the top surface of a stove, which also served as a heater with its drum-like pipe, was a modern idea in those days. About a thousand feet from the house was a spring. Later, when the pioneer of the forests could afford time, a well was dug. The well was covered at the top with a box. The water was drawn up with a bucket attached to a rope and windlass. As conveniences and improvements developed this windlass was supplanted by a chain belt with little buckets attached at intervals.

A short distance northeast of the house the father built a two-story factory of logs. In it he manufactured fanning mills, some furniture and coffins. It contained a turning lathe and a rip saw, both operated by a tread mill. With this industry it was not necessary to give much attention to farming. Clearing timber from the land was a slow process at its best. The fanning mill business developed to a large scale for a pioneer farmer and carpenter. The fanning mill was a crude ancestor of the modern threshing machine. The heads of grain were separated from the straw by tramping. The straw was removed from the floor with hand forks. The chaff and good grain was shoveled into the fanning mill. By turning a hand crank, moving trays sifted the grain and allowed the chaff to be blown off. The writer possesses the original wood patterns of the pitman shaft and smaller cogwheel used by his father in this workshop. Alexander carried on this work from the time he built his log factory, in 1848, until his death, in 1860. So he operated the business for about twelve years; that is, from 1848 to 1860. The reader may judge for himself how this industry of the father has influenced some members of the DeVilbiss family, when it is recalled that one of the strangers who came out to purchase a fanning mill fell in love with the only daughter he saw about the place and later married her. A man came out to the farm from Fort Wayne to buy a fanning mill of Alexander. He was accompanied by Alexander Bowser. As a result of this visit Alexander Bowser courted and married Laurinda DeVilbiss. The remainder of this story comes in its place in the sketch of Laurinda DeVilbiss.



The type of Fanning Mill manufactured by Alexander DeVilbiss. This mill has been on the Frank Horn farm, one mile from the DeVilbiss farm, for over a half century.

PIONEER communities could not afford full time ministers. In all of America's pioneer history we find this need met by earnest minded men who cleared the soil for their farms during the week, and on Sundays stood before their neighbors and explained the way of life. Alexander DeVilbiss was one of those hardy, clean, benevolent men, who could stand before his neighbors and talk to them about God.

In 1843 he, with ten other charter members, organized the First Methodist Church in Spencerville, Indiana. Later he helped to organize the United Brethren Church, it being more in harmony with his ideas.

It is quite an interesting fact that the United Brethren Church in Christ, which now has followers in all parts of the world, was founded in Frederick, and that Alexander DeVilbiss, who was born in Frederick, later became an approved preacher of that doctrine. A license given him by the United Brethren Church is in the possession of one of his children. It reads:

"This is to certify that Alexander DeVilbiss is an approved preacher of the gospel in the church of the United Brethren in Christ, so long as his conduct and doctrine are conformable with

the gospel of Christ. Subject to renewal annually. Given at a quarterly conference, held in DeKalb county and state of Indiana, this 13th day of February, in the year of our Lord 1858. Signed in behalf of said conference. WILLIAM MILLER,
"Presiding Elder."

THE local preacher also visited the sick whenever possible. When those who were ill died the bodies were measured and a coffin was ordered from the local carpenter. When the preacher and the carpenter were one and the same man, as was the case with Alexander, he watched by the bedside, he measured the body, he went home and built the coffin and later preached the funeral sermon and assisted in the burial.

In politics Alexander was known as an Abolitionist. He broke away from the Democratic party because the South wanted to extend slavery. In 1860 the Republican party was organized. This new party sponsored his own ideas and he voted for Abraham Lincoln, but did not live to see him inaugurated President. Alexander predicted the slavery question would eventually bring bloodshed. His predictions came at an early time when people thought he was visionary. Old Samuel Wasson, of DeKalb county, told the writer when a boy that on July 4, 1860, Alexander made a patriotic speech in which he predicted again that blood would be shed over the slavery question, and eventually the slaves would be freed. Most people thought him radically mistaken even then.

He was active in his religious duties and in his political interests to within a few weeks of his death. On New Year's eve, 60-'61, he conducted a very successful watch-night service. The next Sunday he traveled a distance of thirty miles, preached three times and returned in the evening suffering with an attack of typhoid pneumonia. He spoke of his "impending departure" for days previous to his being stricken. On the evening of the 19th of January, 1861, he passed on to his reward. He was buried in the Spencerville cemetery, now known as the White City, by the side of his first son, Jason Asbury DeVilbiss, who had died at the age

of eight. He left his wife, Lydia DeVilbiss, to run the clearing with six boys and a girl, ranging from eight months to eighteen years. Upon his tombstone is inscribed:

"Peace to his ashes, honor to his tomb,
For truth was his motto and God his guide,
And never by secrecy was his tongue tied."

We regret that there is no picture of Alexander. Sketches of his wife and children follow in their order.



Old covered bridge at Spencerville, Ind., crossing the St. Joe river, built in 1868. Photo taken May 2, 1927



Lydia M. DeVilbiss, wife of Alexander 4-IV

Lydia Margaret Clogston, Wife of Alexander, Mother of the Writer.

LYDIA Margaret Clogston, wife of Alexander DeVilbiss (4-IV) and mother of the writer, was born November 4, 1821, in Charlestown, W. Va. She died August 5, 1889.

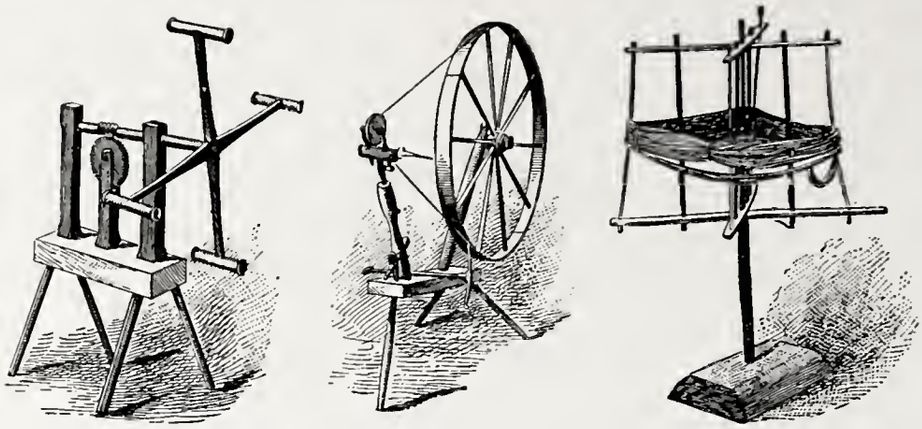
Historical sketches of her father and mother are available. Her father, Samuel Clogston, was born in Scotland in the latter part of the seventeenth century; that is, before 1800. By 1816 he was in America, for that is the date of his marriage, which took place in this country. He was engaged in the brick business during the summer and made shoes in the winter. He died January 19, 1860,

and was buried in Licking county, Ohio. He married *Hanna Carter in 1816. She was born in New York state in 1800, and was of English decent. At the age of sixteen she married Samuel Clogston. Sixteen children were born to them. Their third child was Lydia, who married Alexander DeVilbiss. The mother, *Hanna Carter, was buried at Rockford, Illinois, in 1880.

Their third child, Lydia Margaret Clogston, was born November 4, 1821, in Charlestown, W. Va. At the age of eighteen she was married to Alexander DeVilbiss. Their journey into Michigan is mentioned in connection with the notes on Alexander. Her history is reflected in that of her husband's. In January, 1861, at the age of forty, she was left a widow with her seven children. The youngest was a baby of eight months, the oldest a young man of nineteen years, who enlisted in the Union army the next year. She had no man to work the farm. In '63 the next oldest son tried to enlist. He was under age, but as he was large for his years he succeeded in joining. The mother, however, upon presenting the facts, secured his release and induced him to return to the farm. His heart was set on serving his country, and so the next year, although still under age, he ran away and enlisted in the army again, this time to remain until the war was over.

The house in which the mother did her work and raised her family has already been described. Within the house she had a stove, which was modern for those days for heating and cooking. On the top of the stove at the rear was a heated drum. It served for baking purposes. But she preferred to do her baking in the outdoor oven. This stood on four posts and was made of clay brick and mortar. It had a large opening in front and a hole at the rear for smoke. Fire was kindled in the oven. When the fire had heated the brick the burning wood was raked out, only the embers remaining; the bread was placed within and the door and chimney closed. The heat from the brick baked the bread. When the loaves were baked enough, heat remained to bake pies.

These early pioneers literally hewed their way through the forest. Upon selecting the place to be their home the first work was to cut a clearing.



My Mother's Spinning-wheel, Reel and Swifts

THEN came building a cabin, usually 16x18 feet in size, built of round logs, chipped out. One window was usually provided, either with sheep skin, greased paper or left open. There was one door, one window and a fireplace, with its great crane made of iron on which were hung the iron teakettle and iron pot. There were no stoves, excepting one or two brought West by the more prosperous. The shovel and tongs might be seen standing in the corner of the fireplace. The floor was made of clapboards, made smooth with an ax. Over the fireplace hung the rifle, over the door the dinner horn, to the right stood the spinning wheel and the old-fashioned loom stood in one end of the room. In a corner some shelves made of clapboard serve for the cupboard. In another corner may be seen the mother's bed and under it the trundle bed, where the small children sleep. A nearby ladder indicates the loft where the older children sleep.

The fireplaces had a wide hearth made of stone or brick and it was here that the cooking was done. Strings of drying apples and poles of drying pumpkins hung from the loft. All their fruits were wild and consisted of wild crabapples, wild plums, wild grapes and berries. And since there was no such thing as canning, all fruit had to be dried.

Many cabins had no doors, but used a quilt instead, which was hung in the opening. A few of the more prosperous had doors. The doors were hung on wooden hinges and fastened by means of a wooden latch. Most of these pioneers made their own furniture—not very fine—as it was made of puncheons, left from the floor. The board was cut into square pieces, dressed on one

side, holes bored for the legs, that were hewn from rough sticks and driven into the holes. Thorns were often used, as pins and needles were a treasured possession.

There were no roads in those days. All the country was a vast woods. The settlers traveled by horse back through Indian trails, and when possible followed streams by canoe. They were often reduced to straights in many ways, but their courage enabled them to overcome difficulties and hardships. Wolves, bears and other animals abounded and life was continually in danger of wild animals or hostile Indians.

The family had a sugar camp. Sap was collected by the boys and boiled into maple syrup and sugar. The boys brought home considerable game. Quail, rabbit, squirrels and pheasant were common on the table. Shortly after the opening of the Civil War wheat became scarce. Wheat could not be obtained for household use. Corn bread became the staple food, large cakes of which were baked in the outdoor oven.



OLD-TIME WAY OF MAKING MAPLE SUGAR.

SUGAR MAKING ON DeVILBISS FARM IN OTHER YEARS.

Respectfully Dedicated to Thomas D. DeVilbiss
By
AMOS W. BALLINGER.

Sugar-making really began in the late fall,
With the cutting of "elder bushes" straight and tall:
These were tied together and placed in piles
And later used for making "sugar spiles."

The elders were sawed in pieces ten inches long
And the "spile evening" was a night of joy and song,
When finished they were laid carefully away
Ready for us on the first good "sugar day."

In February when the air seemed warm and damp
We proceeded to "open the sugar camp"
With "brace and bit" and hammer in hand,
No happier people possessed the land.

The trees were "tapped" and the "sap" did flow
While every heart was all aglow,
With visions of "gathering in" and "boiling down"
With syrup and sugar to take to town.

The "sugar shed" was built in the wildwood,
I yet can see just where it stood:
The kettles were all placed in a row,
While the "boiling down" seemed very slow.

Sometimes the "sap" would try to "boil over"
As happy as "a little dog in high clover."
Then we would take "noggin" and "dip and dip,"
Throw in a piece of fat meat and "let her rip."

Then it would sweetly quiet down,
Cease to frolic, without a frown,
Then we knew it was ready to "syrup off"
And be placed in the "setting trough."

But when the sap continued to run and run
It was then our troubles really begun:
"Store trough" full, vessels all running over,
We almost wished "sugar-making" was over.

Then we must "boil and boil" all night,
For to lose our "sap" would not be right.
But when the "big run" on Sunday came
We would let it "run to waste" just the same.

But the greatest and biggest day of all
Was "stirring off day," as all did call
The syrup was boiled and boiled some more
To make nice grained sugar for the store.

With the "noggin" it was placed in a "tray,"
Where it was "stirred and stirred" for half a day,
While "wax" and "taffy" was enjoyed by all,
Old and young, both great and small.

THE mother made all the clothing for her family. She spun yarn for knitting. Dresses were used for even the boys till about eight years of age. One of the children, in looking back remarked, "I don't see how she ever clothed and fed the family." Her health was not the best. The house was lit with candles, which she herself molded. The hardships of those days are not known to the present generation with present day conveniences. Roads were impassable. The short cut to Spencerville was to cross the river. The mother would row at the extreme end of the hollow log, used for the boat, so that water would not come into the broken end. All the neighbors were friendly with the exception of the nearest neighbor, who was antagonistic toward society, and "would not so much as loan a shovel to dig a grave." At Christmas time the mother would provide each child with a couple sticks of candy and a red apple. The mother labored with the hardships of a pioneer farm for thirteen years.

She moved to Fort Wayne when her third son, Alexander, married and started housekeeping on the farm in the late fall of '74. The remaining part of her life was spent with different children: the most of the time was spent with the daughter, Laurinda, Mrs. Alexander Bowser, at whose home she died August 5, 1889. Within two years after the mother left the farm it was sold to a friend and neighbor, *Henry Horn. There was such confidence between the two families that the buyer did not receive the full title to the farm, but made out a promissory note to the youngest boy, who was a minor. When the boy reached majority he executed a deed for his interest in the place and the note was cleared.

The children of Alexander 4-IV and Lydia DeVilbiss are our fifth generation:

1-V JASON ASBURY DEVILBISS, born December 9, 1839, in Licking county Ohio. Died August 30, 1848, at Spencerville, Indiana, age eight years.

2-V ALLEN DEVILBISS, born December 5, 1841, in Licking county, Ohio. Died October 1, 1917, at Toledo, Ohio, age seventy-five years.

3-V LAURINDA DEVILBISS, born December 27, 1843, at Specerville Indiana.

4-V JOHN WESLEY DeVILBISS, born April 13, 1846, at Spencerville. Died April 11, 1879, at Hicksville, Ohio.

5-V ALEXANDER DeVILBISS, born March 29, 1848, at Spencerville, Indiana. Died December 1, 1890, at Lafayette, La.

6-V WILLIAM FLETCHER DeVILBISS, born July 25, 1851, on the farm in DeKalb county. Died June 14, 1913, at Fort Wayne, Indiana.

7-V ALTON LOVEJOY DeVILBISS, born September 8, 1855, on the farm in DeKalb county. Died April 1, 1900, at Decatur, Indiana.

8-V THOMAS DILLS DeVILBISS, born May 12, 1860, on the farm in DeKalb county.

This historical note of these children will be found in the group of the fifth generation.



The Old Two-Bucket Well



Rev. J. W. DeVilbiss

5-IV JOHN WESLEY DeVILBISS, SON OF ALEXANDER.

JOHN Wesley DeVilbiss was born August 28, 1818, in Frederick, Maryland. When about thirteen years of age he entered a saddler's shop at Tiffin, Ohio, to learn the trade. He was converted at a camp meeting near Tiffin in 1833. The law compelled his employer to send him to school a few weeks each year. Later John Wesley spent some time at the Methodist College at Augusta, Kentucky. After attending college he returned to Mansfield, Ohio, where for a time he again worked at his trade. In the fall of 1836 the Ohio conference met in that town. John Wesley began to make preparations to enter the intinerant ministry. He was ordained an elder and appointed junior preacher of the Coolville circuit. At the conference at Hamilton in 1842 he, with five others, volunteered to go as missionaries to the republic of Texas. They took a wood burner at Cincinnati and steamed down to New Orleans. His diary at this point reads:

"Here a Jew merchant sold me a good overcoat, wrapped it up and, in breaking the thread, essayed to drop it behind the counter and handed me another all done up worth about half as much. I had no little trouble to get the coat I had bought."

IT WAS reported at New Orleans that Galveston was blockaded by a Mexican squadron. So they steamed up the Red river and crossed the Sabine river into Texas, December 10, 1842.

John Wesley DeVilbiss will be remembered as the first member of the family to change the pronunciation of the name from Devilbiss to DeVilbiss. It happened in this way. In the minutes of the Ohio Conference the name was spelled in the usual way. When the roll was called in the Texas Conference by Rev. T. O. Summers, John Wesley was absent and the Rev. Mr. Summers called for "DeVilbiss." When Mr. Summers published the roll of the conference the name appeared as DeVilbiss. When John Wesley saw his name changed in this way he considered it an improvement and ever afterward wrote his name with a capital "V."

John Wesley was assigned to various circuits for sixteen years, to 1855. At San Augustine he was ordained a deacon. Later he rode to San Antonio and preached the first Protestant sermon in that town. He wrote that he "conducted a day school there, and a Sunday school in a Mexican hacal, built by setting up mesquite posts in the ground, stopping the cracks with mud, and covered with a thatched roof, and with a dirt floor." The present building is a large stone structure known as the "Travis Park Methodist Episcopal Church South." In one of the large colored glass windows in the auditorium is a bust of John Wesley DeVilbiss as the founder of that church and a pioneer missionary in that part of Texas.

On February 11, 1845, he married Telitha Ann Menafee at Colorado, Texas, who was born June 5, 1824, in Morgan, Alabama. In June of the next year, 1846, a daughter was born to them, who lived only a few hours, and the following August "my wife quietly passed away to the land of rest. This was a sore trial to me, for she was a helpmeet indeed in my ministerial work."

From his notes on the conference at Houston, 1846, we quote: "The vote on the great division question was taken at the conference. The roll was called and the vote was unanimous for division and adherence with the South. From this time we were in the Methodist Episcopal Church South."

JOHN Wesley's second marriage was September 28, 1847, to Martha Lucinda Kerr in Bexar county. She and their six children are mentioned at the close of this section.

A running chronology shows the extent of John Wesley's activities in Texas. After working on circuits from '42 to '55, for thirteen years, he was assigned to the German branch of the Methodist Church for four years. In 1859 he was in San Antonio and other districts. From October, 1866, to December, 1870, he was agent of the American Bible Society. In 1870 he was located at Corpus Christi. In 1875 he was agent for the Southwestern University. In 1879 he was on the Clinton circuit and the San Antonio mission. The part John Wesley played in forming the German Methodist Church of Texas is important. When all Texas was formed into a German district in 1856 he was made presiding elder of the entire district. There were no railroads, no roads, no bridges. Travel was done on horse back. Thousands of miles were covered in the course of a year. "To say that he was popular among the Germans does not fully express the facts. He was beloved by the church and esteemed by the outsider." He preached to the Germans in their own language. His district of Texas grew into the Texas German Conference. In 1881 he was honorably placed in the superannuated list. He had given forty years of vigorous, virile ministry to the state of Texas.

On the 30th of January, 1885, he wrote in his journal: "This is my wife's birthday and we had a plymouth rock chicken pie; took some exercise; feel better today, except my feet are much swollen; want to repair chimney tomorrow if the day suits at all and I am able." This is the last paragraph he ever wrote. The morrow came. He repaired the chimney and then left his work here for his reward yonder—January 31, 1885.

He has a host of children which already extend into the fifth generation from him. Most of them live in Persall, Texas. His second wife, Martha Lucinda Kerr, was born January 30, 1830, in Giles, Tennessee. She died ————. Their children were:

1-V WILLIAM KERR DeVILBISS, born July 6, 1848, in Fayette, Texas. Died September 30, 1852, in Burleson county, Texas.

2-VTHOMAS ALEXANDER DeVILBISS, born June 18, 1850, in Burleson county. Married Winnie Harris, September 29, 1870, in Alascosa county. Died May 17, 1899, in San Antonio.

3-V TALITHA ANN DeVILBISS, born May 29, 1852, in Burleson county. Married Simion Harris (brother to Winnie), December 31, 1868, in Bexar county. Died November 7, 1882, in San Antonio.

4-V *JOHN WESLEY DeVILBISS, born July 27, 1856, in New Bramfels, Texas. Married Sophronia Applewhite October 31, 1877, in Bexar county.

5-V ISAAC LEMUEL DeVILBISS, born July 14, 1858, in Bexar county. Married Hattie Ophelia Stanfield February 15, 1883, in Bexar county. Died February 22, 1890, in Bexar county.

6-V MARY PRISCILLA DeVILBISS, born August 25, 1860, in Bexar county. Remained single.



A Horse Rake of the Olden Time



6-IV Elizabeth Rebecca DeVilbiss Clogston

6-IV ELIZABETH REBECCA DeVILBISS.

Second Daughter of Alexander 3-III and Priscilla.

*Elizabeth Rebecca DeVilbiss was born July 6, 1821, in Licking county, Ohio. She went by the name of Rebecca. On March 18, 1841, she married Alexander Clogston, the brother of her brother's (Alexander's) wife. This marriage took place in Morgan county, Ohio, where her husband farmed in the summer and made shoes in the winter. In 1858 he moved, with his family, to Greene county, Indiana, and settled on a farm. They went through the hardships of pioneer life. Both were devout and worked in their church. The log house which they first built burned down and they immediately built a substantial home in which they lived the remainder of their lives. Their golden wedding was celebrated in 1891. They both died on the farm which they cleared. Alexander died November 27, 1901, and Rebecca August 29, 1904.

Their children were:

*1-V FLORENCE A. CLOGSTON, born February 12, 1842, in Morgan county, Ohio. Married *Charles Harwood

March 8, 1864, in Green county, Indiana. Died October 26, 1907.

2-V ADELLA PRISCILLA CLOGSTON, born March 24, 1845. Married *James M. Hicks, December 28, 1865, in Greene county, Indiana. Died February 24, 1883.

*3-V TALITHA A. CLOGSTON, born October 9, 1846, in Morgan county, Ohio. Married William Plumber. Died June 27, 1877.

*4-V WILLIAM WESLEY CLOGSTON, born March 24, 1849, in Morgan county, Ohio. Married Nellie Wilson. Second marriage to Josephine Bottorff.

5-V MARY E. CLOGSTON, born December 23, 1853, in Morgan county, Ohio. First married John Benham. After his death she married John Calliham. Died November 10, 1880.

*6-V MELVIN CLOGSTON, born July 13, 1856, in Beverly Washington, Ohio. Married Elizabeth Moore, February 9, 1886. Died January 26, 1921, at Philadelphia, Pa.

7-V ALBERT CLOGSTON, born July 28, 2862, in Greene county, Indiana. Died January 20, 1864.

*8-V ARTHUR CLOGSTON, born May 7, 1865, in Greene county, Indiana. Married Louise Doney. Died—

7-IV HESTER ANN DEVILBISS,

Third Daughter of Alexander 3-III and Priscilla.

Hester Ann Devilbiss was born December 14, 1842, in Licking county, Ohio. She married William F. Foster September 18, 1845, in Washington county, Ohio. There was a daughter born to this union. The family remained within the state of Ohio.

We now follow the children of Alexander 4-IV and Lydia, the children who form the fifth generation.



2-V Dr. Allen DeVilbiss

THE CHILDREN OF ALEXANDER DEVILBISS 4-IV AND LYDIA M. CLOGSTON.

1-V JASON ASBURY DEVILBISS. Jason Asbury DeVilbiss was born December 9, 1839, in Licking county, Ohio. He died at the age of eight, August 30, 1848, in Spencerville, Indiana.

2-V ALLEN DEVILBISS, M. D. Allen DeVilbiss was born in Licking county, Ohio, December 5, 1841. His father and mother moved to Spencerville, Indiana, in 1843. He secured his elementary education in the public schools of Auburn, DeKalb county, after which he studied a term at the University of Michigan. Then he entered the Miami Medical College at Cincinnati, where he laid the foundation of his professional career. He graduated with the class of '68 with the degree of Doctor of Medicine.

Dr. Clark of Middletown had befriended him and helped him through his medical courses at Cincinnati. When he finished school he returned to Middletown and Doctor Clark fitted him out with a horse and saddle bag and gave him the Williamsport terri-

tory, across the river from Middletown. Here is where he married Miss Lydia A. Lipes, August 13, 1868, at the home of the bride. Here the first three of the five children were born. For a time Dr. DeVilbiss was interested with Dr. R. S. Knode in a drug store at New Haven. When Dr. Clark of Middletown died, Dr. DeVilbiss returned to Middletown to settle the Clark estate. He now took up Dr. Clark's practice. While here he took trips into Fort Wayne to lecture as professor of anatomy in the Fort Wayne Medical School. It was during these years that the Grand Rapids and Indiana railroad was built through this territory of Middletown, but of instead of coming through Middletown it came three miles east at Hoagland.

The coming of the railroad interested Dr. DeVilbiss in Hoagland. He bought the remaining portion of the farm on which the town of Hoagland was built and laid out another addition to the town. He moved his family into the log house on the farm during the time he was building a new house. It was in this log house that his son Thomas was born. Almost five years of practice was carried on at Hoagland. While here he went to St. Louis and took special studies in nose and throat disease. In 1883 he moved into Fort Wayne.

In Fort Wayne he set up an office above a drug store at the corner of Calhoun and Berry streets, the present location of the old National Bank. Dr. Knode of New Haven became interested in his location and bought a half interest in his work. After about three years' work he gave Dr. Knode his share in the business and moved with his family to Toledo to a larger field of opportunity. This was in 1887. At Toledo he made a specialty of diseases of the ear, nose and throat. He was one of Toledo's first specialists in this line, and has done as much toward the perfection of this branch of medical science as any member of the profession.

As a practitioner he enjoyed a highly successful career, both from the pecuniary standpoint and in the treatment of patients, commanding to the fullest extent the confidence of his patrons and the respect of his fellow practitioners, and keeping abreast of the mark of progress in the field of medical research, and doing much

toward the advancement of surgery. When Dr. DeVilbiss began to practice the atomizers employed in surgical operations were capable of applying medication in but one direction, thus necessitating the use of several of these instruments in a single application. Being of an ingenious turn of mind, he devoted a great deal of time and study to the situation, and finally invented and perfected an atomizer which would allow the treatment to reach all the affected portions by turning an adjustable tip. He also became deeply interested in brain surgery, to which he devoted considerable study, and invented an instrument which not only replaced the old chisel and mallet formerly employed in surgery, but enables operations to be performed in much less time and without the injury and shock formerly experienced by the patient. It is now used in operating on various flat bones of the body, and has been adopted by the United States government and many of the world's foremost surgeons. In 1890 Dr. DeVilbiss withdrew from the active practice of medicine, having previously embarked in the manufacture of the above instruments of his own invention. In 1900 his son, Thomas A., purchased half interest in the business, which was then expanded so as to include the manufacture of a general line of spraying and surgical instruments and supplies. In June, 1905, they incorporated as the DeVilbiss Manufacturing Company, of which Dr. DeVilbiss was president until his death. While he was president his son, Thomas A., was vice president and general manager and Frank C. Penoyar secretary. The company enjoys an extensive and lucrative patronage, and with a branch factory in Canada and offices established in several foreign countries it has extended its marketing operations practically to all parts of the globe.

"Dr. DeVilbiss was affiliated with the Toledo Post and the Grand Army of the Republic. He had enlisted in the Civil War August 10, 1862, as a corporal in Company A, 100th Indiana Infantry; and took part in the memorable siege of Vicksburg and other engagements of less importance in Mississippi, Kentucky and Tennessee. He received an honorable discharge from the service August 10, 1863, just a year after the date of enlistment.

HE WAS a member of the American Medical Association and other similar societies and a trustee of the Lucas County Academy of Medicine. Though he was always greatly interested in the support of civic activities, it was not his want to aspire to personal preferment and public honors."

For a number of years prior to his death he did not take an active part in his business. These winters were spent in Florida. His death occurred October 1, 1917, at his home in Toledo, Ohio.

The children, grandchildren and great-granchildren of Dr. Allen DeVilbiss and Lydia A. Lipes DeVilbiss are:

1-VI FRANK DEVILBISS, born June 26, 1869, at Williamsport, Allen county, Indiana. Died, 1873, at Williamsport, Allen county, Indiana.

2-VI LIDA M. DEVILBISS, born September 7, 1870, at Williamsport, Allen county, Indiana. Married Frank L. Gutchess March 9, 1892, at Toledo, Ohio.

1-VII Allen D. Gutchess, born March 10, 1893. Married Helen Mills, March 10, 1916. Died 1918.

I-VIII Carolyn Elizabeth Gutchess, born February 8, 1917. Second marriage, Julia Bonwell, June 18, 1921.

2-VIII Bonnie May Gutchess, born May 1, 1924.

2-VII Helen Gutchess, born January 13, 1895. Died June 10, 1921, at Toledo, Ohio. Married Alexander C. Urie, June 14, 1917.

1-VIII Thomas Alexander Urie, born November 4, 1918.

3-VII Edith Gutchess, born August 3, 1903. Married Edgar Merrit (called Ted) Jamison, August 10, 1922.

3-VI ALLEN DEVILBISS, JR., born March 15, 1873, at Williamsport, Allen county, Indiana. Married Mae Merrill, August 13, 1894, at Port Huron, Michigan. Died April 22, 1911, at Toledo, Ohio.

1-VII Hazel DeVilbiss, born July 26, 1895, at Toledo, Ohio. Married Webster E. Shuey, December 1, 1914, at Toledo, Ohio.

1-VIII Jane Shuey, born December 22, 1915, at Toledo, Ohio.

2-VIII Virginia Shuey, born November 3, 1920, at Toledo Ohio.

3-VIII Marilyn Shuey, born September 25, 1923, at Toledo, Ohio.

2-VII Paul Allen DeVilbiss, born March 23, 1914, at Toledo, Ohio.

4-VI MARY C. DEVILBISS, born January 8, 1876, at Middletown, Allen county, Indiana. Married Frank C. Penoyar, March 13, 1897, at Toledo, Ohio.

1-VII Marjorie Penoyar, born December 23, 1897, at Toledo, Ohio. Married James Darwin Storey, March 26, 1927, Toledo, Ohio.

2-VII Jessie D. Penoyar, born May 23, 1899, at Toledo, Ohio. Married Franz G. Schwalbe, March 22, 1922, London, England.

1-VIII Doris Schwalbe, born December 3, 1922, in London, England.

2-VIII Allen Schwalbe, born March 30, 1926, at Toledo, Ohio.

3-VII William Penoyar, born July 7, 1902, at Toledo, Ohio.

4-VII Frank C. Penoyar, Jr., born February 23, 1909, at Toledo, Ohio.

5-VI THOMAS A. DEVILBISS, born July 29,1878, at Hoagland, Ind. Married Edna Parker, December 12, 1906, at Toledo, Ohio.

1-VIII Howard Parker DeVilbiss, born May 8, 1908, at Toledo, Ohio.

2-VIII Virginia DeVilbiss, born March 23, 1924, at Toledo, Ohio. All reside at Toledo, Ohio.



3-VI ALLEN DeVILBISS, JR.

3-VI *ALLEN DeVILBISS. Allen DeVilbiss, third child of Allen DeVilbiss, M. D., 2-V, and Lydia A. Lipes, was born March 15, 1873, at Williamsport, Indiana. His father moved to Hoagland and later moved to Fort Wayne. When fourteen years of age his father moved to Toledo, Ohio. He worked with his father in the DeVilbiss Manufacturing Company, manufacturers of surgical instruments.

He was united in marriage in 1894 to Miss Mae Merrill of Huron, Michigan. Two children were born to this union, Hazel and Paul.

"After he invented a springless pendulum scale, the principle of which is now being employed in the manufacture of scales by nearly every scale manufacturing company in the world, Allen DeVilbiss formed the DeVilbiss Computing Scale Manufacturing Company, his brother Thomas being associated with him in the business.

"After a number of years of successful business Allen DeVilbiss sold the patent and rights to Henry Theobold—about 1901—and removed to Columbus, where he was employed as superintendent of the Halwood Cash Register Company for about two years. At the end of that time he returned to Toledo to take a position as a director and officer of the scale company under Mr. Theobold.

"In addition to his invention of the world revolutionizing springless computing scale, Allen DeVilbiss invented a plyer, which is now being manufactured. These plyers are in use all over the country by mechanics of every trade."

He was known in the business world as a man of unusual intellect and pleasing personality, and through his short life he had made a host of friends.

He was a member of the Sanford L. Collins lodge of Masons, an active member of the Toledo Yacht Club and of the Business Men's Club, and was a member of a number of social organizations of Columbus, where he made a host of friends during his short residence in that city.

In spite of his youth Mr. DeVilbiss was regarded as an equal in business dealings by men who had spent the greater part of their lives in business. He not only was an inventor, but was a practical business man, capable of handling his own invention. His ability as a business man brought him offers from many prominent manufacturers and promoters. In April, 1911, he was stricken with apoplexy and nephritis and died at his home in Toledo.

NOTE:—
It was the intention of the Compiler to omit all references to Nephews and Nieces including his own children as time and space would not permit more than a record of birth and place.
There is an old saying however, that "Exceptions Prove the Rule". As the following news item is so exceptionally interesting, and the subject also being a namesake of the Compiler, the writer feels he would be remiss in his work if he did not include it.

DeVilbiss Nominated for Blade Loving Cup

Manufacturer Is Suggested Because of Civic, Business and Public Sympathies; Came Up Through Ranks

Jan. 13, 1927—Toledo Blade

Editor Toledo Blade: May I nominate a man for the Blade trophy who in my opinion, stands virtually alone in his conception of the public service, of civic obligations, of his responsibility as a large employer of wage earners, of his duty to his fellow man?

He is Thomas A. DeVilbiss, president of the DeVilbiss Manufacturing Co., and a man who, when there is a big job to be done, is generally the one who meets all requirements.

First of all, Mr. DeVilbiss came up through the ranks. He is a machinist and learned his trade from apprenticeship up. Secondly, he has an inventive brain that has been a factor in the tremendous success of the huge business of which he is the head, the largest individual business of its kind in the country.

Tom DeVilbiss has known struggle in business, as have most men who are in business, but out of a busy life he has found time for some of the world's fine things.

Rotary President

'Way back in 1915 he was president of the Toledo Rotary club and helped it get established. That includes his activities and generous gifts to the Crippled Children's work of that organization. In 1916-1918 he was commodore of the Toledo Yacht club and two years ago commodore of the Interlake Yachting association.

He was president of the Industrial Exposition in 1921, chairman of the Toledo Community Chest in 1922 and a trustee of that organization since, a member of the board of education since 1915, throwing into that splendid work a goodly part of the ability and judgment that has given Toledo one of the finest school systems in the country.

Mr. DeVilbiss was chairman of the $1,500,000 Masonic Temple and Civic Auditorium campaign of 1925. He is president of the Toledo Plant, Fruit and Flower guild, an indication that he has time for the finer things; he has served his term as president of the Chamber of Commerce.

Right now he is a member of the city and county plan commissions, a vice president of the Toledo council, Boy Scouts, and his gift recently of $30,000 to that organization wiped the debt off the Scout reservation and gave the council a happy balance besides.



Thomas A. DeVilbiss

Loves Art

These are only the outstanding evidences of his conception of his civic duties and responsibilities. In the erection of the new DeVilbiss plant, he has aimed and is succeeding in giving industry a beautiful setting—just how beautiful Toledo people must await until the plan is completed. He has given not only of his time, his thought, his ability, but of his money.

Typical of him and his love for the arts and the finer things of this world is the art school he maintains in his factory. There, under the guidance of the finest of experts, workingmen and women are being given opportunity to develop to the fullest any talents they may have for the arts.

Beyond all of these things, he has a frank, generous, friendly view of life, and friends have found there genuine sympathy and understanding whether the problems be of a civic, social, industrial or personal nature.

But match that record of business, civic and unselfish public achievement if you can. —C. H. H.



3-V Laurinda DeVilbiss Bowser

3-V LAURINDA DeVILBISS BOWSER

LAURINDA DeVilbiss, only daughter of Alexander DeVilbiss, 3-IV, and Lydia Clogston, was born December 27, 1843, at Spencerville, DeKalb county, Indiana. Her early life may be deducted from the stories given of her father and her mother. When a young woman she became identified with the United Brethren Church. Her Christian faith has been one of the dominant factors in her character, and largely explains her extended life in spite of severe illness. While living on the farm with her mother she married Alexander Bowser, August 23, 1863. Her husband worked the farm until November 6, 1864, when he enlisted in the Eleventh Indiana Battery. While in the Union service their son, Allen A. Bowser, was born, February 19, 1865. Allen was six months old before his father saw him on his return from the army.

Alexander Bowser resumed farming for a year and then, with his wife and baby, moved to Cedarville, Allen county. Here he

built a log house and later, when he built a frame house, this log house was used a work shop. During the summer time he did carpenter work and in the winter made ax handles and split rails.

At that time there was a canal running from Lafayette, Indiana, through Fort Wayne, to Toledo, Ohio. It was called the Wabash and Erie canal. Water for this canal was supplied by a dam seven miles north of Fort Wayne on the St. Joe river. This dam made the St. Joe navigable for steamboats up to Cedarville. An uncle of Alexander Bowser had a steamboat built and called it "The Rebecca of Cedarville." Alexander became captain of this boat and his wife, Laurinda, was the steward. The boat plied between Cedarville and Toledo. It carried passengers and cargo consisting of staves, lumber and flour.

In 1873 Alexander and Laurinda moved to Fort Wayne and built a home on East Creighton avenue, where the Bowser office now stands. He contracted carpenter work in the summer and continued to make ax handles in the winter. At the latter trade he was an expert. In 1885 he became interested with his brother in the manufacture of oil tanks and pumps.

Laurinda took sick in 1890 and for several years she was abed under the care of physicians. Her brother, Allen, being a physician, frequently came from Toledo to consult with her family doctor and often called in other specialists. Nothing was left undone. She was given the best care that was possible to save her life. On December 27, 1892, their son, Allen A. Bowser, married Lottie May Pierson. Their marriage was performed by the mother's bedside, for she had given up hope of recovery. However, in 1897, Laurinda recovered sufficiently to be about the house and take daily rides. Their son, Allen Bowser, built a beautiful home at 1130 East Pontiac street, Fort Wayne, in 1911. Laurinda and Alexander moved into this new home with their son. By this time she had fully recovered her health, and August 23, 1913, Alexander Bowser and Laurinda celebrated their golden wedding. Eighty friends and relatives gathered with them in the new home.

The following song was arranged by the nieces and sung by the guests:

(Tune "Solomon Levi")

When Uncle Alec used to go way down to Spencerville
He walked a twenty-mile or more and rolled down every hill.
He clipped it at a lively rate as fast as he could get,
For who was waiting at the gate but Rindie there, you bet.

(Chorus)
O, Uncle Alec, you are the best we know;
Yes, and Aunt Laurinda, who keeps him on the go.
We're glad to be here this fine day, to welcome one and all,
And let you know how we enjoy your golden wedding day.

But Rindie was a busy girl and had so much to do
She could not entertain a beau in the good old summertime.
She left him on the old, old bench, while she milked a cow or two,
And Alec, just to pass the time, sat there and took a chew.

(Chorus)
But even though it was a task Alex won out, you bet, at last
And took fair Rindie for his bride to always grace his fireside,
And off to war he had to go and leave his bride the corn to hoe
And back he came to find, just think, a baby boy all white and pink.

(Chorus)
To see them now, who would suppose,
'Tis fifty years since he plucked his rose.
They're just as gay as you and I and look us all straight in the eye.
But Rindie still does let him sit, for she must knit and knit and knit.

The song takes the reader back to the time when Alexander Bowser courted Laurinda DeVilbiss. Alexander accompanied a man out to the DeVilbiss farm who wanted to buy one of the fanning mills which Laurinda's father manufactured. On that visit he saw Laurinda. After that he would walk the twenty miles from Fort Wayne out to the farm to meet her and then walk the twenty miles back.

When Laurinda's daughter-in-law, Mrs. Allen A. Bowser, died, November 17, 1916, the responsibility of housekeeping again came upon Laurinda's shoulders until the marriage of her granddaughter, Jennie Bowser, daughter of her son Allen. Jennie married Frank Roddick McKay, August 8, 1917, and assumed the direction of the home. Laurinda's husband, *Alexander Bowser, died April 8, 1922. The year following she took a trip with her son Allen to Atlantic City and New York and maintained the best of health. In 1923 her granddaughter and husband, Frank McKay, built a home on the corner of Rudisell boulevard and Indiana avenue, Fort Wayne. Laurinda and her son Allen moved with them into this new home. She had then reached her eightieth birthday. Laurinda continues to make her home with her granddaughter and is enjoying fairly good health. She does not walk about, but spends most of her time upon her bed, where she keeps actively in touch with her friends over her telephone. About the house she uses a wheel chair, and frequently motors with the family. Two great-granddaughters help brighten her home life. We repeat, her Christian faith has played a great part in sustaining her through her different trials. She will ever be remembered by her friends and the members of her family as one who has ever given a helping hand to the sick and needy. The habit of her lifetime when setting the table was always to set an extra plate for any one who might happen in. On her eighty-third birthday, December 27, 1926, she enjoyed a surprise party by the members of her family, and her only living brother and the members of his family. We trust she may be spared to enjoy more birthdays with us.



1-VI Allen A. Bowser

1-VI ALLEN A. BOWSER.

*Allen A. Bowser, only child of Alexander Bowser and Laurinda DeVilbiss, was born February 19, 1865, in the log house on the old DeVilbiss farm, six months before his father returned from war. When eight years of age his parents moved to Fort Wayne. As a young man he worked with his father at carpenter work until the Bowser plant was started. He was with the Bowser Company from the beginning. When the company had only one foot power lathe it was kept running day and night. Allen was the one who worked it nights. After the first pump was designed by Allen's uncle, all the succeeding designs and types of pumps and many of the inventions of the company were almost entirely the product of Allen's mind. When the company was incorporated, in 1896, he was made active vice president and master mechanic of the shop. After thirty-five years of activity with the company in 1920 he retired to follow his home pursuits.

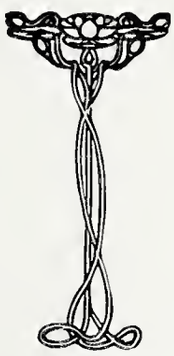
On December 27, 1892, Allen Bowser married Lottie May Pierson. His home and family are mentioned in connection with his mother in the preceding sketch. When a young lad he had

helped his father build the brick building used by the Calvary United Brethren congregation of Fort Wayne. He remained with this church and has been the Bible school superintendent for thirty-five years, and is president of the board of trustees. At present he is actively engaged in the plans and erection of a new church building. In his home life he is absorbed in the care of his invalid mother. No friend who knows him would consider any personal reference to him complete without mention of this devotion to his mother.

1-VII JENNIE BOWSER, only daughter of Allen A. and Lottie May Bowser, was born at 1314 East Creighton avenue, Fort Wayne, Ind., September 15, 1896. Married Frank Roddick McKay, August 8, 1917.

1-VIII ELLEN ANN McKAY, born May 21, 1922.

2-VIII NANCY BOWSER McKAY, born February 3, 1924.





RESIDENCE OF ALEXANDER AND LAURINDA DeVILBISS BOWSER
1873 to 1911

1314 E. Creighton Ave., Fort Wayne, where the S. F. Bowser & Co's general office is now located, Elizabeth B. DeVilbiss Johnson, Edwin B. and Frank A. DeVilbiss and Jennie Bowser McKay, were born in this house in the order mentioned. Left to right, Mrs. Allen A. Bowser, Bess B. DeVilbiss Dunten, Laurinda DeVilbiss Bowser. Standing, Alexander Bowser and Allen A. Bowser. This picture was taken in 1894.



4-V Rev. J. W. DeVilbiss

4-V JOHN WESLEY DeVILBISS.

John Wesley DeVilbiss, third son of Alexander DeVilbiss, 3-IV, and Lydia Clogston, was born April 13, 1846, at Spencerville, DeKalb county, Indiana. When a young man he worked on his father's farm and also learned the carpenter trade. In 1862, at the age of sixteen, he was so ambitious to enlist in the Union army that he left the farm without his mother's consent. It was necessary that he help on the farm, so his mother had him returned. At the age of eighteen he again enlisted on October 28, 1864. He entered Company D of the 142nd Indiana Volunteers. On July 14 of the next year he was honorably discharged, and on the last day of that year, December 31, 1865, he married Mary Fisher at

or near Spencerville, Indiana. In 1866 he moved to Cedarville and built barns for farmers. In this construction work he hewed his own timbers for the frames.

His home at Cedarville was located near a Methodist Church. During a revival at this church he embraced religion and at once began the study of the Bible to prepare for the ministry. He was licensed to preach by the United Brethren Church on January 6, 1872. The salary of a minister was so meager in those times that it was necessary for a minister to continue at a trade. The Nickle Plate railroad and the Baltimore and Ohio railroad had just built through the forests and settlers were entering the new country. With the settlers came the opportunity to open new church fields. He was sent to Paulding county to open up new work. Meetings were held in the homes of the people until a house of worship could be built. In 1878 John Wesley moved to Hicksville and worked at his trade. While in the army he had contracted inflamatory rheumatism, which troubled him the remainder of his life. April 10, 1879, was his last day of work. The day following the rheumatism increased and went to his heart, and he died the evening of April 11 at Hicksville, Ohio. His funeral was preached on the day that would have been his thirty-third birthday. He was buried by the side of his father and infant daughter at Spencerville, Indiana.

The children of John Wesley DeVilbiss and Mary Fisher are:

1-VI MARY VIOLA DeVILBISS, born 1866, at Spencerville, Ind. Died in infancy.

2-VI SARAH ELIZABETH DeVILBISS MANN, born February 20, 1868, at Cedarville, Ind. Married James Albert Mann, March 2, 1889, at Hicksville, Ohio.

The children are:

1-VII Dean DeVilbiss Mann, born June 30, 1890, at Hicksville, Ohio. Married Ruth Spencer, born December 4, 1892.

2-VII Joseph Vear Mann, born April 24, 1897, at Lebanon, Kentucky. Married Elizabeth Jones, born April 23, 1889, at Sumerset, Kentucky.

3-VII James Albert Mann, born April 24, 1903, at Portsmouth, Ohio. Died July 29, 1903.

4-VII Thomas Otherbine Mann, born December 3, 1905, at Garrison, Kentucky.

5-VII Glenn Edward Mann, born December 18, 1907, at Garrison, Kentucky.

3-VI WESLEY A. DEVILBISS, born February 16, 1871, at Cedarville, Indiana. Married Myrtle M. Miller, June 28, 1894, at Hickville, Ohio.

The children are:

1-VII Unis Mary DeVilbiss Kelsey, born June 5, 1895, at Hicksville, Ohio. Married Laurel L. Kelsey, October 6, 1914, at Fort Wayne, Indiana.

1-VIII Parks L. Kelsey, died when five years old.

2-VIII Ned D. Kelsey, born January 25, 1921.

2-VII Virgil M. (called Budd) DeVilbiss, born September 2, 1896, at Hicksville, Ohio. Married Azala Lumbard, October 17, 1917, at Fort Wayne, Indiana. No children.

4-VI JOHN WESLEY OTTERBINE DEVILBISS, born August 12, 1874, Churubusco, Indiana. Married Lenora Massey, March 1, 1913, at Cincinnati, Ohio. No children.

5-VI ELLA DEVILBISS LAIR, born January 28, 1879, at Hicksville, Ohio. Married Robert O. Lair, September 1, 1901, at Sturgis, Michigan. No children.



5-V Alexander DeVilbiss, Jr.

*Alexander DeVilbiss, fourth son of Alexander DeVilbiss, 3-IV, and Lydia Clogston, was born March 29, 1848, at Spencerville, Indiana. Alexander took up the responsibility of the farm in 1867 from his brother-in-law, Alexander Bowser, who had worked the farm the previous year. While on the farm he engaged in the butcher business. He slaughtered and carried on a successful business, delivering meat by wagon to the people of Spencerville, Leo and Cedarville twice a week.

In 1875 he was married to *Margaret Dilly near Spencerville. Thep moved to Butler, Indiana, in 1877, where he opened a butcher shop. This, however, did not prove a success. He then took up the fitting and selling of eye glasses. He seemed to have a natural talent for testing eyes without the aid of instruments. Doctor Dills, an eye specialist in Fort Wayne, marveled at his ability to fit eyes without the aid of instruments, and said that Alexander could fit them better than he could with his testing apparatus. He followed this occupation about ten years and then accepted a position as salesman for the Bowser Company of Fort

Wayne. He traveled in Kentucky, Tennessee and Louisiana. He arrived in Lafayette, Louisiana, Saturday evening, November 30, 1890, and stopped at the Lafayette Hotel. When he was called for breakfast Monday morning, December 1, they found him dead. In the coroner's verdict the cause of death was profuse hemorrhage of the lungs. Efforts were made to have his body shipped home. It was not possible to secure a zinc-lined casket in that town, so as to have the remains shipped according to law. The body was buried in Lafayette. His grave has since been marked with a granite headstone. At the time of his death he had orders for eight tanks and pumps in his pockets. As a Bowser salesman he had been very successful.

The children of Alexander 5-V and Margaret Dilly are:

1-VI GEATHER J. DEVILBISS, born July, 1876. Married Anna Stacie Gimbey, October 17, 1907. Died September 12, 1910.

2-VI ADELLA DEVILBISS, born November 27, 1878.

1-VI GEATHER J. DEVILBISS.

Geather J. DeVilbiss, the only son of Alexander DeVilbiss 5-V and Margaret Dilly, was born on the DeVilbiss farm at Spencerville in the log house July 12, 1876. The farm was sgold the year following, and his father and mother moved to Butler, Indiana, where he received his early education in the grade and high schools. December 1, 1890, when Geather was fourteen years of age, his father died in Lafayette, Louisiana, and two years later Geather started to make his own way in the world by coming to Fort Wayne and working as a special apprentice in the Wabash shops for 8 cents per hour. Out of his 72 cents per day he paid 50 cents for board and room. He also studied mechanical engineering at a night school. After completing his apprenticeship he served for a short time as gang forman in the Wabash shops at Fort Wayne, and then was promoted to Andrews as roundhouse foreman. From there he was promoted to shop and roundhouse foreman at Danville, Illinois. At the age of twenty-two, in December of 1898, he was promoted to general foreman of the shops and roundhouse at Peru.



1-VI GEATHER J. DeVILBISS

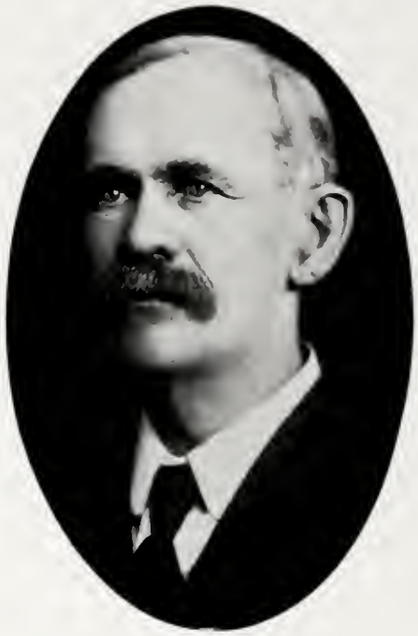
This promotion happened in this wise: In the winter of 1898 the Wabash could not get out engines fast enough and a blockade resulted. A company official asked a dispatcher at Peru if he knew of any man up or down the road who could relieve the blockade. The dispatcher replied that he did not know of a man, but he knew of a boy. The dispatcher told the official of Geather DeVilbiss at Danville and was instructed to wire him to come. Here was a young man of twenty-two years as general foreman of shops and roundhouse. Geather worked in the roundhouse for a couple of weeks without removing his clothes, slept on a bench, had his meals brought to him and relieved the blockade. The following spring, March 18, 1899, he left the Wabash to accept the position of general foreman of the Grand Trunk railroad shops at Battle Creek, Michigan. During his years at Andrews, Danville and Peru his mother and sister lived with him. After four years with the Grand Trunk at Battle Creek he accepted the position of master mechanic of the Baltimore and Ohio, with headquarters at Loraine, Ohio. In June, 1903, he was promoted to

master mechanic of the Newark division of the same road, which is one of the most important of the system.

On October 17, 1906, he married Anna Stacie Gimbey at Columbus, Ohio. That year he left the Baltimore and Ohio to become superintendent of motive power with the Hocking Valley railroad, which position he held until his untimely death. From 1903 until his death he had an interest with his uncle, Thomas DeVilbiss, in platting two subdivisions in Fort Wayne. On September 20, 1910, he was testing a new engine and was riding in the cab of a passenger train together with the road foreman. The train was running at a high rate of speed, and from some unknown cause, ten miles south of Toledo, the engine left the track and turned completely over. Geather DeVilbiss, the road foreman, and the engineer were instantly killed. The fireman, who had been standing in the gangway, was badly scalded, but recovered. Geather's body was taken to his home at 373 Kendall Place, Columbus, Ohio, and was buried September 14, 1910.

He had one son, Thomas Edward DeVilbiss, born July 5, 1907, at Columbus. The mother and son reside at Columbus. At the time of his death Geather was considering a flattering offer from another road. He was a member of the Masonic order, and held in greatest esteem by his friends and relatives for his determination and ability.





6-V William F. DeVilbiss

6-V WILLIAM FLETCHER DeVILBISS.

William Fletcher DeVilbiss, son of Alexander DeVilbiss 3-IV and Lydia Clogston, was born July 25, 1851, in the old log house on the DeVilbiss farm near Spencerville. He spent his early days on the farm and attended school at Spencerville. He started his interesting career by teaching in district schools for a number of years. In 1875 he went to work for his brother, Dr. Allen DeVilbiss, in a drug store at New Haven. The next year he went to Wise county, Texas. There he worked in a drug store for a short time, when he decided to go to San Antonio to visit his uncle, John Wesley DeVilbiss. He bought a pony on which to make the trip, for there were no railroads to San Antonio at that time. Just before starting a Mexican asked to see his revolver and William let him take it. The Mexican accidentally pulled the trigger and the bullet passed through William's right thigh. This delayed the trip. A brother I. O. O. F. took care of him until he was able to travel. His Uncle Wesley rode up from San Antonio and they returned together on horseback—a distance of some four hundred

miles by trail. At San Antonio he went into contracting business and built a number of large buildings. One of the buildings was a large theater on the main Plaza of San Antonio, which has since been rebuilt into a hotel.

In 1879 William returned to Allen county, Indiana, and went into the drug store business with his brother Thomas at Hoagland. While there William married Naomi Ridenour, March 3, 1881. In 1882 he sold his interest in the drug store and made a trip to Florida. Upon his return he wanted his brother and family to go south with him, which they refused to do. He then bought one hundred acres of land four miles east of Hoagland and engaged in farming business and in the operation of a sawmill. In 1888 he sold his farm and moved to Fort Wayne and acquired an interest in the Bowser Company.

He sold his interest to Mr. Bowser in 1892 and purchased a farm two and a half miles northwest of the city, on the Goshen road, which he conducted until April, 1913, when he sold it to Fletcher & Bickness and moved into the city. The farm was known as "the DeVilbiss farm." This was the largest farm of its character in Northern Indiana, and in its conduct Mr. DeVilbiss secured a wide reputation as a horticulturist and achieved success. He conducted his work along modern scientific lines, which became known and practiced throughout the entire state. His exhibits of fruit grown in Allen county usually carried away prizes wherever shown, and the display entered by him in the St. Louis World's Fair brought him several medals. He was one of the leading members of the Indiana State Horticultural Society and a recognized authority on all matters relating to fruit growing.

For many years William DeVilbiss was an active worker in the affairs of the Republican party in this county and in the Twelfth district. At one time he received the nomination of his party for commissioner. He was also a well-known fraternity man and an active member of Harmony Lodge No. 19, I. O. O. F., and the Order of Moose.

On June 14, 1907, Mrs. Naomi DeVilbiss died and was buried in the I. O. O. F. cemetery at New Haven. William's second mar-

riage was to Mrs. Emma Smith. There were no children from this marriage. William contracted pneumonia and on March 11, 1913, he died at his home, 335 West Pontiac street, Fort Wayne. He was buried at New Haven by the side of his first wife and three children, who had died early in life.

Following is the list of the living children of William Fletcher DeVilbiss and Naomi Ridenour:

1-VI LYDIA ALLEN DEVILBISS, M. D., born September 3, 1882, Hoagland, Indiana. Married to George Henry Bradford, March 29, 1920. No children were born to this union. Resides at Miami Beach, Florida.

2-VI ELIZABETH B. DEVILBISS, born August 31, 1883, at 1314 East Creighton avenue, Fort Wayne, Indiana. (Twin sister Linda died November 1, 1883). Married Will Johnson (born in Canada), October 31, 1908. Resides Sioux City, Iowa.

1-VII Mary Beth Johnson, born February 17, 1917, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

3-VI WILLIAM MARCUS DEVILBISS, born December 25, 1888, Allen county, Indiana. Married Mrs. Bessie White (widow), July 19, 1924. Resides at Torrington, Wyoming. No children were born to this union.

4-VI EDNA MARIE DEVILBISS, born October 16, 1890, Allen county, Indiana. Married to Edward Elmer (called Jim) Springer, July 31, 1909. Three girls were born to this union. Resides at Miami Beach, Florida.

1-VII Dorothy Jane Springer, born May 10, 1910, Allen County.

2-VII Naomi Lydia Springer, born August 5, 1911, Shelby, Ohio.

3-VII Edna Ellen Springer, born April 2, 1916. Died when three years old.

5-VI MARION DEVILBISS, born October 19,1896, Allen county, Indiana. Married to Arthur Rhodes Pool, April 7, 1923. One boy was born to this union. Resides at Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

1-VII Billy Jim Pool, born December 18, 1925, at Miami, Florida.



7-V Alton L. DeVilbiss

7-V ALTON LOVEJOY DeVILBISS.

Alton Lovejoy DeVillbiss, sixth son of Alexander DeVilbiss 3-IV and Lydia Clugston, was born September 8, 1855, on the DeVilbiss farm near Spencerville, in the log house. He lived with his mother until he was fifteen years of age and then started to learn the carpenter trade with his brother John. He came to Fort Wayne and worked for a time at his carpenter work, but suddenly changed his mind and decided to become a dentist. He started to study dentistry with Dr. H. C. Sites, located at the corner of Barr and Wayne streets, Fort Wayne.

In 1878 he opened up an office in Decatur, Indiana, and remained in that office twenty-three years, until his death. On September 9, 1879, he married Florence Elizabeth Kunkel, near Monmouth, Indiana. On September 23, 1888, he united with the Methodist Episcopal Church of Decatur, where he held many responsible positions as a member of the official board and as a member of the building committee. He was also a member of the

I. O. O. F., the Knights of Pythias, and National Union. He at one time was Republican member of the City Council, and there his presence was ever felt in the interests of the public and his home city. In January, 1900, he had an attack of lagrippe, which kept him home for several days. Then he went back to his office a week or more, then he was again sick with acute Bright's disease, which terminated in his death April 1, 1900.

He had one daughter, 1-VI Fannie Bell DeVilbiss, born July 23, 1880, at Decatur, Indiana. Married Earl Brockway Newton, May 1, 1911. Of this marriage one son and three daughters have been born.

1-VII Alton DeVilbiss Newton, born March 3, 1912, at Detroit. Died March 7, 1912.

2-VII Martha Elizabeth Newton, born April 3, 1913, at Detroit, Mich.

3-VII Jeanette Newton, born June 6, 1916, at Detroit, Mich.

4-VII Fannie DeVilbiss Newton, born September 6, 1918, at Bloomfield Hills, Pontiac, Mich. Their residence is at Bloomfield Hills, Pontiac, Mich.



8-V Thomas D. DeVilbiss
Age 13

8-V THOMAS DILLS DeVILBISS

Thomas Dills DeVilbiss, youngest child of Alexander DeVilbiss 3-V and Lydia Clogston, was born May 12, 1860, in the old log house on the DeVilbiss farm near Spencerville. When the baby was but eight months old the father died. The boy's early years may be traced in the history of the mother, where the things of her household are described. At the age of fourteen years young Thomas was thrown on his own resourecs because of his mother's failing health. He came alone to Fort Wayne and made his home with his sister, Mrs. Alexander Bowser, for a year. He attended the Hanna School, and worked at odd jobs as a carpenter for his brother-in-law on Saturdays and during vacations. After this year in Fort Wayne he went to live with his brother, Dr. Allen DeVilbiss, at Middletown, Allen county, in 1875. Here he again attended school and did the chores for his board and clothing. Two years later his brother, Dr. Allen DeVilbiss, moved to a farm at Hoagland and Thomas, then seventeen years of age, farmed the

place for his brother and received a share of the crops. In the fall of 1879, with the proceeds from his farm labor and $350 of borrowed money, he went into the drug business with his brother William at Hoagland. As this business did not warrant both of them staying in the store, Thomas traveled for a few months on the road, selling paper supplies for Mr. S. F. Bowser, who was then engaged in the paper business. In the spring of 1880 both Thomas and his brother William went into carpenter contracting in addition to their drug store business.

One of the school teachers, Miss Adella L. Chapman, of Hoagland, interested Thomas. But this affection did not become serious until she was teaching out in Sterling, Kansas. Sickness of a friend had brought her out there and in the spring of 1881 Thomas was bringing her back. On May 14, 1881, he married her at the manse of Dr. Moffet, then pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Fort Wayne. Ten days later they started their housekeeping at Hoagland. The next month, on June 20, a severe storm passed over Hoagland and blew over a church building which Thomas and his brother William had under construction. The building fell upon Thomas and crushed a leg, arm and face. He was removed by the aid of jack screws. Three doctors were ready to amputate his leg, but his brother, Dr. Allen, with great patience and skill, saved it. The day after the storm the Fort Wayne papers reported that Thomas DeVilbiss was killed and a couple of weeks later a man came to sell his wife a tombstone. In 1882 Thomas was appointed postmaster of Hoagland by President Garfield, and served in that capacity until he sold out his drug business in 1883, when he moved into Fort Wayne, where he went into the carpenter contracting business. In the winter of 1886, when he visited relatives in the southern part of the state, Mr. S. F. Bowser gave him one of the two sample tanks the Bowser Company then had. He returned in ten days with fourteen orders for tanks and pumps, and became the second salesman on the road for the company. He immediately went into the Bowser shop to help make and fill his own orders. That incident started his pleasant relationship with the Bowser Company, which was to continue until 1926, with the exception of two years, from '94 to '96.



8-V Thomas D. DeVilbiss
Age 32

In 1892 Thomas DeVilbiss became councilman from the Tenth ward on the Republican ticket over the issue of securing a sewage system for the Tenth ward. He was the first Republican to ever be elected from the Tenth ward. Mayor Zollinger appointed him on the sewer committee and the sewer was completed. A new city charter came into effect and created boards for the administrative department. Mayor Oakley appointed Thomas DeVilbiss as the chairman of the first Board of Public Works, from '94 to '96.

One of the provisions of this new charter gave the Board of Public Works jurisdiction over public parks, and it was during the term he served that Swinney Park was laid out and given to the public: the same year Reservoir Park was improved.

In 1895, while on the Board of Public Works, he organized the Locust Oil Company. C. B. Oakley was president, James Simonson was secretary and treasurer and Thomas DeVilbiss was



Thomas D. DeVilbisses family spending school vacation in 1896 on The Locust Oil Company's lease in Jay County, Ind. The oil derrick was a little too far to the right to appear in the picture.

general manager. The company drilled ten wells two miles northeast of Pennville, in Jay county, Indiana, and operated them until 1913, when they were sold. In 1903 Thomas and his nephew, Geather DeVilbiss, platted an addition to Fort Wayne. It was located south of Pontiac and west of Holton avenue, and was platted into thirty lots and known as the DeVilbiss addition to the city of Fort Wayne. In 1905 they platted another addition located south of Pontiac street and east of Oliver and extending south to Eckart street. It consisted of fifty lots, known as DeVilbiss second addition. In 1904 Thomas and Fred Knoche platted an addition located north of Pontiac, between Anthony boulevard and Lillie street. In the same year Thomas also organized The Home Supply Company to retail coal and wood, with a capital stock of $10,000. He was made president of the company, and has continued to hold this office for twenty-two years. In 1903 he sold his home across from the Bowser office, in which he had lived for seventeen years, and built a new home at the corner of Pontiac and Holton avenue on lots Nos. 3 and 4 of DeVilbiss'

addition to Fort Wayne. He moved into this new home December, 1903.

In 1904, when the Bowser Company began to furnish railroad and manufacturing institutions with their equipment, it was necessary to have reliable men look after the installation of tanks; and at the request of the company Thomas accepted the position of traveling engineer. His duties required him to travel into forty-three states of the Union, eastern and western Canada, Mexico and Scotland. An installation for the Singer Sewing Machine Company brought him to Scotland. Week-end trips were made to Edinborough and other nearby cities. John Knox's home was visited. While the equipment was being tested a trip was made to London, Westminster Abbey and to France. His work brought him to California five times. On one occasion, when in New York, he was instructed to take care of a matter in California. Sixteen days later he was back in New York. Thirteen of these nights had been spent on a sleeper.



FROM notes in Thomas DeVilbiss' diary, beginning January 20, 1908, we learn the extent of some of his trips. From Fort Wayne he went to Houston, Texas, then back to Fort Worth, Texas, then to California. From there he went to Pueblo via Elida, New Mexico, and El Paso, Texas. He arrived in Pueblo, Mexico, March 21, 1908. Here he met the owner of a sugar factory which had been in operation for over three hundred years, located at Tatetla, sixty miles south of Pueblo. The purpose of this conference with the sugar man was to arrange for the installation of a power pump for pumping molasses into barrels. The molasses was a by-product used for manufacturing alcohol. Six peons were required to barrel this molasses, and every two days these six peons loaded a car. With the new automatic pump two peons filled a carload in three hours. While down here an earthquake occurred. The natives were greatly excited. They fell on their knees and made the sign of the cross. Press reports of the earthquake alarmed the Fort Wayne folks, and through the United States Consul at Mexico they learned that Thomas was safe and on his way to Mexico City. In his tool box he brought with him a stone figure of a Mexican god. He returned to Fort Wayne May 8.

In July of this year, at the request of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe railroad, he made an inspection trip over their entire system from Texas to California wherever oil burning engines were used. He recommended to the Santa Fe the type and number of oil meters their gulf system would require. His report on the gulf system was turned in and the inspection was continued to California. He was accompanied by Mrs. DeVilbiss on this trip, which required over six months. By this time the inspection was completed, the gulf system meters were purchased, made and ready for installation. Mrs. DeVilbiss stayed in the larger cities while Thomas did his work on side trips. During this year he covered more than 36,000 miles, an average of about one hundred miles per day. The work was finished in May, 1909.

For several years following he did special work for the Bowser Company and acted as their trouble man. In 1913 he made his

fourth trip to California for the Santa Fe to install an oil house at San Bernardine. In April he returned home and remained home long enough to have plans prepared and let a contract for erecting a business block at the corner of Pontiac and Anthony boulevard. At the present time this building is occupied by a drug store, branch postoffice, barber shop and a general store, comprising dry goods, grocery and meat market. On the second floor is a physician's office and a dentist's office and two residence apartments. At the rear a public garage and filling station are located.

On September 16, 1914, a year after the business block was started, while in Syracuse, New York, making a connection to a ten thousand gallon gasoline tank, the gas ignited by a spark from the motor drill and Thomas had a narrow escape with his life. He was badly burned and confined in the Good Shepherd Hospital more than a week before able to return home. When fully recovered from his burns he continued to act as trouble man and do special work for the Bowser Company. In August, 1917, a special trip was made to western Canada to adjust and test pumps in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta to meet the demands of the sealer of weights and measures of the dominion. The first of November of the same year a trip was made to Akron, Ohio, to superintend the installation of an equipment to deliver gasoline and other solvents through pipes to all parts of the B. F. Goodrich rubber plants by remote control system. Four months were required to complete this work. The next few months were occupied in superintending gasoline installations for the government. One of these installations was at McCook's aviation field at Dayton, Ohio.

From Dayton, Thomas was called home on account of his wife's illness. Several physicians were brought in, and they said she had an incurable disease and could not live very long. Is was a case of ascending progressive paralysis. Thomas now gave up his road work and devoted his entire time to the needs of his wife, and did all in his power to make her comfortable and prolong her life. She passed away February 27, 1919. The service was conducted by Dr. H. B. Master of the First Presbyterian Church and interment was made at Lindenwood.

Ater the death of Adella, his wife, Thomas made one trip to Dayton, Ohio, to install a large oil house equipment for the Delco Light Company. By this time the Bowser Company had bought a large area of real estate for factory purposes, on which was located a brick school house, a large store building and twenty-five dwelling houses. Some of the buildings had to be wrecked, others moved. On his return from Dayton the company asked him to take charge of this wrecking and moving. Later the Bowser Loan and Trust Company was organized by Mr. S. F. Bowser to finance the buying and building of homes for the company's employes. Thomas was selected to negotiate the purchase of homes for the Loan and Trust Company and appraise the value of the properties. By 1922 the cost of real estate had advanced so rapidly that the Bowser Company discontinued the purchase of homes, but continued to make loans upon homes. Thomas' time now included the supervision of the renting of the company's property and work in the mailing department. In May, 1920, he sold his home on the corner of Pontiac and Holton, where he had resided for seventeen years, and moved into one of the apartments of his business block.

In November, 1919, Thomas DeVilbiss met Mrs. Inez Gray Seitz, widow of Albert Seitz of Kalida, Ohio. Later he became interested in her and visited her at her sister's home in Hudson, Mich. Following another visit at a Toledo hospital, where Mrs. Seitz was a patient, she returned to her sister's home at Hudson. Here she again met Thomas, and later, on July 24, 1920, they were quietly married by Rev. William H. Phelps in the First Presbyterian Church of Battle Creek, Mich. After spending a few days at Chicago and Peru they returned to Fort Wayne and made their home in their apartment at 2636 South Anthony boulevard. Up to this time Thomas' daughters, Laurinda and Bessie, had been keeping house for him since the death of their mother.

In the spring of 1925 the Rev. Henry Hostetter and Rev. Homer Weisbecker visited Mr. and Mrs. Thomas DeVilbiss and a few other members of the Third Presbyterian congregation with a view of starting a church in the southeastern part of the city. The nearest available building was the James Smart Public School,

and the first meeting of this new group was held Sunday, May 10, 1925. Rev. Homer Weisbecker took charge of the work until the middle of August, when he sailed as a missionary for Siam. In the six weeks between pastorages Thomas secured speakers for the services, and superintended the Bible school and taught the Bible class. A new pastor arrived October 1 and found Thomas the inspiring spirit of the new enterprise. In three weeks the new group moved into the new Oxford Portable Public School, secured a site for a future building and was given the name Anthony Boulevard Presbyterian Church. Thomas missed only one service from the time the meetings started until he left for a vacation in Florida, October 31, 1925. When he saw the congregation safely quartered for the winter he took a leave of absence from the Bowser Company, bought a complete auto camping outfit and left with his wife and niece for Florida by the way of Chattanooga, Atlanta and Jacksonville. The east and west coast cities were visited, and the last Florida camp was pitched February 1 on the bank of the Swanee river. Business matters called Thomas back home. Bad winter roads made it necessary to return through Columbia, S. C., over the Piedmont cutoff and across the Cumberland mountains on the national pike to Columbus, Ohio. Some of the roads in the mountains were cut through snow higher than the top of the car. The seven thousand miles were covered without accident, although it was a strenuous trip for a man of sixty-six years. On Monday, February 15, he reported for work at the Bowser Company, and the next day the directors of the company voted to release him from active work as per his request. He was the oldest man in point of service with the company, and after thirty-six years of faithful service was rewarded with a pension.

Upon his return from Florida, Thomas found he had been made chairman of the building committee of the Anthony Boulevard Church. A temporary building was to be erected on the new site at Anthony and Drexel. The committee purchased a good frame building and moved it on to the church site. The moving and remodeling was supervised daily by Thomas, who devoted his entire summer to this work. By the middle of June it was

sufficiently completed to occupy, and on September 12, 1926, the congregation was organized with eighty-seven charter members. Thomas and his wife were among the charter members. On the day of organization he was elected a trustee and the trustees made him chairman of their board.

In July a trip was taken to his son Edwin at Williamsport, Pa., and from there Frederick, Maryland, was visited and additional information for this family history was obtained.

Thomas DeVilbiss is the second Thomas of this family. The three Thomases in this record have been named from him: a nephew, Thomas A. DeVilbiss, of Toledo, Ohio; a grandnephew, Thomas E. DeVilbiss, of Columbus, Ohio, and a grandson, Thomas A. DeVilbiss, of Fort Wayne.

In politics he was a staunch member of the Republican party. He was active in conventions in his home state and in national caucus. He went with Roosevelt and the Progressive party when his conscience would not sanction the methods of his party in ousting Roosevelt. For many years he was Republican chairman of his ward.

No one can be very long with Thomas DeVilbiss without becoming aware that he is in the presence of one who can meet every situation with a pointed, humorous story. To all his friends and acquaintances he is known as "Uncle Tom." In the many business contacts made by the officers and pastor of the new church we have found that the name of Thomas DeVilbiss has been an asset everywhere. He has lived continuously in the neighborhood, where the church is starting, for forty-two years, and the sterling worth of his character is a credit to our cause. We do not think his life's work is yet ended. With his zeal and devotion another chapter of his life may some day be written.

Foot Note—The above sketch of Thomas DeVilbiss was written by his pastor, Rev. J. R. Sorensen, who assumes responsibility for the length of this section.

The children of Thomas D. DeVilbiss 8-V and Adella L. Chapman are:

1-VI LAURINDA MAY DeVILBISS, born February 28, 1882, at Hoagland, Ind. Domestic Science teacher Central High School, Fort Wayne, Ind.

2-VI EDWIN BOWSER DeVILBISS, born September 13, 1884, at 1314 East Creighton avenue, Fort Wayne, Ind. Superintendent of motive power Pennsylvania system, Williamsport, Pa. Married Agnes McKay (born July 2, 1885), September 6, 1911.

1-VII ROBERT ALEXANDER DeVILBISS, born July 29, 1912, at Fort Wayne, Ind.

2-VII ELEANOR ADELLA DeVILBISS, born October 8, 1914, at Fort Wayne, Ind.

3-VII JANET McKAY DeVILBISS, born July 6, 1916, at Toledo, Ohio.

3-VI FRANK ALLEN DeVILBISS, born October 14, 1887, 1314 East Creighton avenue, Fort Wayne, Ind. Pattern maker, General Electric Company, Fort Wayne, Ind. Married Clair Stenger (born July 1, 1889), June 16, 1910.

1-VII FRANK DeVILBISS, born September 22, 1918, died September 27, 1918.

2-VII THOMAS ALLEN DeVILBISS, born November 5, 1919, Fort Wayne, Ind.

3-VII BONNIE JEAN DeVILBISS, born February 23, 1922, at Fort Wayne, Ind.

4-VI BESS BEATRICE DeVILBISS, born December 7, 1890, at Fort Wayne, Ind. Married Louis Heber Dunten, attorney-at-law, (born August 3, 1889), June 21, 1921.

1-VII GEORGE LOUIS DUNTEN, born July 4, 1922, at Fort Wayne, Ind.

2-VII ADELLA DeVILBISS DUNTEN, born August 16, 1924, at Fort Wayne, Ind.

THE following extracts of wills, administration accounts and marriage records of Frederick county, Maryland, may be useful to other branches of the DeVilbiss family that wish to trace their ancestors. For this reason I am including the same.

WILLS.

Will of Adam Devilbiss, probated August 19, 1794. Mentions following children: Cathrine, Barbara, Rosanna, George, David and William, "and the child that my wife is now pregnant with," and his wife, Cathrine, who was appointed executrix.

Will of Susannah Devilbiss, probated August 29, 1823. Mentions daughters, Margaret Angleberger, Phebe Owings, Susannah Nusbaum, Catherine Devilbiss and a son, George Devilbiss.

Will of John Devilbiss (of Casper), probated October 30, 1827. Mentions wife, Martha. He makes bequests to his wife's son, George Devilbiss, and his wife's second son, John Devilbiss. He also bequeaths to his son, Samuel.

Will of Casper Devilbiss, Sr., probated December 29, 1835, sons: Casper, Levi and Thomas and John. He makes a bequest to Caty Angel, a daughter, of all lands he holds in state of Ohio, Montgomery county, recorded fourth day of November, 1829. He also mentions daughters, Susanna and Nancy Nicodemus.

Will of Martha Devilbiss, probated September 5, 1842. Mentions sons, George and John. Also mentions grand-daughters, Jane Rebecca and Martha, daughters of son, John.

Will of Sarah Devilbiss, probated May 7, 1855. Mentions sons, George M. Devilbiss, Jesse L. Devilbiss and John L. Devilbiss. Daughters, Ann Mariah Greenwood, Sarah E. Devilbiss, Hannah Devilbiss and Margaret A. Devilbiss.

Will of David Devilbiss, probated March 25, 1856. Mentions sons, John Hanson Devilbiss and Abner C. Devilbiss, and daughter, Rosanna.

Will of Thomas N. Devilbiss, probated June 17, 1856. Only mentions wife, Joanna.

Will of Casper Devilbiss (of Liberty election district), probated April 8, 1868. Mentions wife, Ann E. Devilbiss. Daughters, Barbara A. Devilbiss and Hannah Adaline Devilbiss. Sons, Adam A. Devilbiss, Mahlon Devilbiss, Martin Devilbiss, William Devilbiss, Darius Devilbiss and Thomas Levi Devilbiss.

Note—Will of John Devilbiss, probated October 25, 1804. Mentions his wife's name, Margaret, and George and John, Apalonia Cramer and Philpona Crumbaugh as children.

ADMINISTRATION ACCOUNTS.

George Devilbiss, administrator of MICHAEL DEVILBISS, stated his administration account April 30, 1757. The account does not state to whom the money was distributed, but the inventory of personal property filed March 2, 1756, states that Casper C. Devilbiss was a kin.

Frederick Eichelberger, administrator of GEORGE DEVILBISS, JR., states his first administration account, August, 1806, and the third and final account state November 20, 1819, gives the widow (name not mentioned) and children, George and John, each one-third of the estate.

Christian Brengle, administrator of CHRISTIAN DEVILBISS, in his administration account stated June 18, 1810, mentions the following heirs: Elizabeth, Catharine, John, Susannah and Margaret.

The second and final account of Peter Hines, administrator of John Devilbiss of John, stated March 20, 1826 shows the following as heirs: Widow, Mary Devilbiss; children, Adam Devilbiss, Catherine, wife of Daniel Albaugh; Mary Devilbiss and Eleanor Devilbiss.

The third and final account of David Devilbiss, administrator of CATHARINE DEVILBISS, stated November 8, 1843, shows the following: Children, George, David, Barbara, Rosanna Steel and Adam Devilbiss. Also Abner Campbell and Ann Whitehill, children of Catharine, a daughter of said CATHARINE DEVILBISS. To Rachel Shaw, the legal representative of William Devilbiss, a deceased son, is also given a share.

The further final account of Adam Devilbiss, administrator of GEORGE DEVILBISS, stated November 15, 1850, shows the following heirs: A son, Adam W. Devilbiss, and Sarah Catherine, James Hamilton and Eugenia Clary, children of Elizabeth Clary, also deceased, who was a daughter of deceased. Other children of said GEORGE DEVILBISS mentioned are Catharine S. Barrick, Miranda O. Devilbiss, Luther M. Devilbiss, Asena R. Devilbiss and Matilda A. Devilbiss. There is also a bequest to Adam W. Devilbiss, administrator of Henry A. Devilbiss, also deceased, who was a son of the intestate.

The first account of George W. Devilbiss, administrator of JOHN L. DEVILBISS, stated April 7, 1856, bequeaths the estate to the following heirs: To his brothers, George W. and Hesse E. Devilbiss, and to his sisters, Mariah Greenwood, Hannah Devilbiss, Sarah E. Devilbiss and Margaret A. Devilbiss.

Thomas Gurley, Jr., administrator of JOHANNA DEVILBISS, stated his final administration account January 18, 1858. The heirs are three brothers, Daniel Breighner, Zacharia Breighner and Alexander Breighner and a sister, Magdalena Gintling.

Isaiah Devilbiss, administrator of SAMUEL DEVILBISS, stated his final administration account October 19, 1858. Heirs are: Widow, Mary Devilbiss; children, Samuel, Isaiah, Martha R. Ponel, Ephraim M. Devilbiss and Irvin A., Thomas N., William and Joseph, children of Joseph Devilbiss, deceased, who was a son of said deceased.

George W. Devilbiss and John Greenwood, administrators of LEVI DEVILBISS, stated his eighth and final account March 27, 1860. Heirs are: Widow, Sarah; children, John L., George W., Jesse L., Maria Greenwood, Sarah E., Hannah and Margaret A. Devilbiss.

Adam Devilbiss married Anna Campbell, April 11, 1818; Casper Devilbiss married Susannah Devilbiss, May 22, 1786; Casper Devilbiss married Mary Bostian, February 20, 1810; Charles Devilbiss married Elizabeth Stevenson, January 2, 1811; David Devilbiss married Catharine Fulton, March 28, 1816; David Devilbiss married Elizabeth Campbell, December 28, 1819;

George Devilbiss married Martha Karr, March 13, 1798; George Devilbiss married Rebecca Devilbiss, July 16, 1805; George Devilbiss married Matilda Nelson, March 9, 1811; George Devilbiss married Nancy Prim, January 16, 1823; John H. Devilbiss married Mary Cathereny Crist, February 27, 1798; John Devilbiss married Martha Devilbiss, November 14, 1807; John Devilbiss married Anna Carnardy, June 6, 1815; Levy Devilbiss married Sarah Ncodemus, September 9, 1822; Samuel Devilbiss married Elizabeth Kerr, April 15, 1809.

THE writer does not feel that he should close this abbreviated history of the family without saying something about our cousins, who spelled their name with an "i," thus "Divilbiss."

Their ancestors settled in Pennsylvania at the same time as the Devilbisses settled in Maryland, about 1730, nearly two hundred years ago. I have had some very interesting letters from Mrs. Bessie Robinson Breed. Her maiden name was Robinson; her mother's name was Divilbiss. Her husband, F. M. Breed, is known as "The Chester White Hog Man," of Onawa, Iowa. Two of her letters read in part:

"My mother's name was 'Divelbiss,' and she was born at Pola, Kan., but raised at LaCygne, Kan. My grandfather and great-grandfather were both laid at rest in LaCygne.

"My grandfather, Dr. J. R. Divelbiss, and Dr. Samuel Divelbiss of LaCygne and Alec Divelbiss of Kansas City were brothers.

"There is an Arnold Divelbiss living at Missouri Valley, Iowa, and a George D. at Kidder, Mo., both cousins of my grandfather. John Divelbiss passed away at Lawrence, Kan., a few years ago. He was a brother to George and Arnold. George Divelbiss has the family history.

"He says that the name is a French name, and one time all spelled it as you do yours. But some went to Germany and took the form Divelbiss. Later on the father of Arnold, George and John and my great-grandfather—own brothers—disagreed and

one took the name Divelbiss and another Divelbess. Then my mother's brother, Louis R., decided to change the way of spelling it and took Divilbiss.

"My grandmother and an Uncle John were laid to rest at Valley Falls, Kan. I was raised at Lawrence, Kan. Four years ago I married and came to Blencoe.

"We have a nice home here—four-room house and five lots.

"Alice Divelbiss (daughter of Arnold D.) is teaching at Onawa, Iowa, seven miles north of Blencoe.

"My mother is at Kansas City with my married brother. My other brother is at Mare Island Naval Hospital, California. He is serving his second term.

"Do you know anything of the Divelbiss history? And did any of them serve in the Revolutionary War?"

The above letter was written February 20, 1917, and the one from which the following is taken was dated May 27, 1924:

"In April we were visiting at Logan, Iowa, and I am enclosing a snapshot of cousin Arnold Divelbiss, who was 83 years old May 9.

"Today, in looking through some old books, I found a clipping of the death of William Divilbiss of Canton, Ill. I am enclosing that also."

(Copy of Clipping)

WILLIAM DIVILBISS.

"William Divilbiss, a former resident of Canton, died at his home in Normal, Illinois, about 7:30 o'clock Sunday evening, after an illness of several months. Death was due to old age and general debility. He was in his eighty-first year.

"Mr. Divilbiss was born in Pennsylvania, February 24, 1825, and was married in that state to Miss Evaline Feidt. They came to Canton in 1849 and remained here twenty-one years, afterward

removing to a farm near Farmer City. Six years ago they moved to Normal.

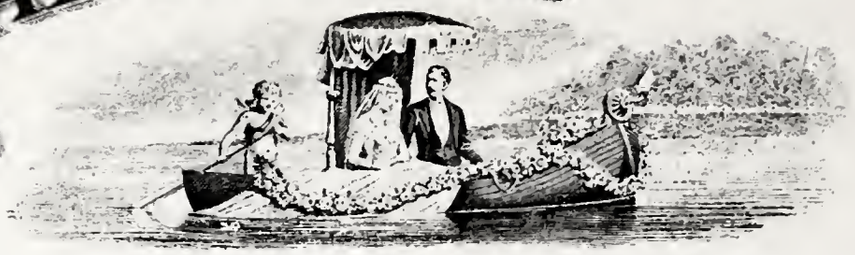
"He is survived by his widow and five children: James U. Divilbiss and Charles E. Dibilbiss, of Canton; William Divilbiss, of Farmer City, and Misses Lucinda and Laura Divilbiss, of Normal. James Alexander Divilbiss, of Kansas City, father of C. H. Divilbiss, who lives west of Canton, is a brother of the deceased.

"Mr. and Mrs. J. U. Divilbiss, of Canton, were at the bedside of Mr. Divilbiss when he died. C. E. Divilbiss went to Normal Tuesday night.

"The remains were accompanied from Normal by the widow, two daughters and J. U. Divilbiss and wife and C. E. Divilbiss, of this city, and Grace, eldest daughter of William Divilbiss, Jr., of Farmer City.

"Funeral services were held in Normal Wednesday morning and the remains were brought to Canton Wednesday evening, being taken direct from the train to Greenwood cemetery."

MARRIAGES



Marriages

BIRTHS



Births

DEATHS



Deaths

CASPEI
b. 172(
d. 1777
b. Alsa
m. Ann

JOHN
brother
Casper
b. ?
d. ?
b. Alsa

GENEALOGY OF THE DeVILBISS FAMILY

I.

CASPER C.
b. 1720?
d. 1777
b. Alsace
m. Anne

JOHN
brother of
Casper
b. ?
d. ?
b. Alsace

II.

1.
GEORGE
b. 1750
d. 1813

2.
JOHN

3.
CASPER

4.
Ann

5.
SUSANNAH
married
Ramsbergh

6.
BARBARAH
married
Fleming

III.

1.
JOHN
b. 1775
d. June
1847
m. Miss Elder
Mary O'Ferrall

2.
GEORGE
b. ?
d. 1813
m. Martha Karr?
March 13, 1798?

3.
ALEXANDER
b. January 18, 1780
d. Dec. 10, 1831
m. Priscilla
McClain
May 1, 1808

4.
CASPER
b. ?
d. 1835
m. Mary Bostian
February 20, 1810

5.
REBECCA
b. ?
d. ?
m. George Devilbiss
July 16, 1805

IV.

1. JOHN
m. Margrite
Bland
2. REBECCA
3. GEORGE
b. 1813
d. 1901
4. ALEXANDER
m. Rebecca Brown

5. ANDREW
m. Mary Bevans

6. HENRY
m. Ananthis Dukree

1. LEMUEL
b. April 12, 1810
d. December 4, 1818

2. WILLIAM
b. November 15, 1811
d. 1863
m. Ruth Carpenter
September 11, 1831

3. MARY ANN
b. May 26, 1814
d. ?
m. Albert Noel, 1844

4. ALEXANDER
b. August 8, 1816
d. January 19, 1861
m. Lydia Clogston
January 27, 1839

5. JOHN WESLEY
b. August 28, 1818
d. January 18, 1885
m. Martha Kerr
September 28, 1847

6. ELIZABETH REBECCA
b. July 6, 1821
d. August 29, 1904
m. Alex. Clogston
March 18, 1841
7. HESTER ANN
b. December 14, 1821
d. ?
m. Wm. Foster
September 18, 1845

V.

1.
JASON ASBURY
b. Dec. 9, 1839
d. Aug. 30, 1848

2.
ALLEN
b. Dec. 5, 1841
d. Oct. 1, 1917
m. Lydia Lips
Aug. 13, 1868

3.
LAURINDA
b. Dec. 27, 1843
living
m. Alexander
Bowser
August 23, 1863

4.
JOHN WESLEY
b. April 18, 1846
d. April 11, 1879
m. Mary Fisher
December 31, 1865

5.
ALEXANDER
b. March 29, 1848
d. December 1, 1890
m. Margaret Dilly
December, 1875

6.
WILLIAM FLETCHER
b. July 21, 1851
d. March 11, 1913
m. Naomi Ridenour
March 3, 1881

7.
ALTON LOVEJOY
b. September 8, 1855
d. April 1, 1900
m. Florence Kunkel
September 9, 1889

8.
THOMAS DILLS
b. May 12, 1860
living
m. Adella Chapman
May 14, 1881
d. Feb. 27, 1919
m. Inez O. Seitz
July 24, 1920

VI.

1. FRANK
b. June 26, 1869
d. 1873

2. LIDA M.
b. Sept. 7, 1870

m. Frank L. Gutchess
March 9, 1892

3. ALLEN
b. March 15, 1873
d. 1911
m. Mae Merrill
Aug. 13, 1894

4. MARY C.
b. January 8, 1876
m. Frank Penoyar
March 13, 1897

5.
THOMAS A.
b. July 29, 1878
m. Edna Parker
December 12, 1906

1.
LAURINDA MAY
b. Feb. 28, 1882
living

2.
EDWIN BOWSER
b. September 13, 1884
living
m. Agnes McKay
September 6, 1911

3.
FRANK ALLEN
b. October 14, 1887
living
m. Clair Stenger
June 18, 1910

4.
BESS BEATRICE
b. December 7, 1890
living
m. Louie H. Dunten
June 21, 1921

VII.

1. ALLEN D.
b. March 10, 1893
m. Helen Mills, March 10, 1916
d. 1918
m. Julia Bonwell, June 18, 1921

2. HELEN
b. Jan. 13, 1895
d. June 10, 1921
m. Alexander C. Urie, June 14, 1919

3. EDITH
b. Aug. 3, 1903
m. Edgar M. Jamison, August 10, 1922

1. HAZEL
b. July 26, 1895
m. Webster E. Shucy, December 1, 1914
2. PAUL ALLEN
b. Feb. 20, 1897

1. MARJORIE
b. December 23, 1897
m. James D. Storey, March 26, 1927

2. JESSIE
b. May 23, 1899
m. Fanz C. Schwalbe, March 22, 1922
3. WILLIAM VINCENT
b. July 7, 1902
4. FRANK C.
b. Feb. 23, 1909

1. HOWARD PARKER
b. May 18, 1908
2. VIRGINIA
b. March 23, 1914

VII.

1. ROBERT ALEXANDER
b. July 29, 1912

2. ELEANOR ADELLE
b. October 8, 1914

3. JANET McKAY
b. July 6, 1916

1. FRANK
d. September 27, 1918
b. September 22, 1918
2. THOMAS ALLEN
b. November 5, 1919

3. BONNIE JEAN
b. February 23, 1922

1. GEORGE LOUIS
b. July 4, 1922

2. ADELLA DeVILBISS
b. August 16, 1924

VIII.

1. CAROLYN ELIZABETH, 1st marriage
b. Feb. 8, 1917
2. BONNIE MAY, 2nd marriage
b. May 1, 1924

1. THOMAS ALEXANDER
b. Nov. 4, 1918

1. JANE
b. December 22, 1915
2. VIRGINIA
b. Nov. 3, 1920
3. MARILYN
b. September 25, 1923

1. DORIS
b. December 3, 1922
2. ALLEN
b. March 30, 1926

Supplement



Adella L. Chapman DeVilbiss as she appeared in 1879 when she first met Thomas D. DeVilbiss

History of Adella Chapman DeVilbiss
1857-1919

For the benefit of the direct descendents of Thomas D. DeVilbiss, the writer of the DeVilbiss History and of Adella L. DeVilbiss, his wife, there is added herewith a brief account of the life of Adella Chapman DeVilbiss, as written by their youngest daughter, Bess DeVilbiss Dunten.

Fort Wayne, Ind., June 1, 1927.

AS YEARS pass by and our children's children shall pick up these pages and read herein this account of the lives of their ancestors, I shall wish more and more that I were really a literary genius that I might more nobly tell the story of the life of that most noble woman, my mother. Even as I write I feel that these eight years of her absence from this earth have in no whit lessened her influence over my life and that of all the gifts that God could give to any of her descendents thru inheritance, the best would be that of being so strong in character as to hold as indelibly the place in the hearts of his or her children as Adella Chapman DeVilbiss holds in the hearts of her own children. I deeply regret that my own children were deprived of her personal influence and only hope that enough of her lives on thru me so that they may feel the influence as I have felt it.

Adella Lena Chapman is a descendent of Moses R. Chapman and Mary Ann Hogg Chapman. Both, the Chapman and Hogg families were residents of Pennsylvania, Moses R. being born in Lycoming Co., March 26, 1821 and Mary Ann Hogg in Indiana, Pennsylvania, March 22, 1822. Mary Ann's father was one of the young men who came west in 1794 with General Anthony Wayne and helped erect the fort at what is now Fort Wayne, Indiana. After his marriage he retained his home in Pennsylvania where his daughters linked the family, by marriage, with families

named Braden, Barnes, Black and Zahniser. Those four names together with Hogg are frequently heard in Pennsylvania. Mary Ann Hogg married Moses R. Chapman in Butler County, Pennsylvania, where her family then resided, on August 31, 1843. There they settled and there to them was born the first of seven children, Robert Coy Chapman on January 3, 1845, (Died, January 10, 1915, at Anderson, Indiana). Other children of this union born in Pennsylvania were Sarah Anne (Hall) (July 11, 1847;; Mercer Co.,); Mary Ellen (Adams) (August 20, 1849; Mercer Co.,), and her twin, Elizabeth, who died the same day. The Chapman family as a whole, then moved westward to Indiana and Moses R. settled his family in Adams County. Here William J. was born (December 20, 1851; died, March 12, 1853.) The family then moved to Noble County where were born James Buchanan (July 9, 1854; died, June 1922, at Hartford City, Indiana) and Adella Lena Chapman, January 11, 1857.

While Adella was a mere child, her parents moved their family again, this time to Allen Co., where they settled in Madison Township. Her father was a carpenter by trade and erected a sawmill on his brother John Chapman's farm. While engaged in this work he contracted pneumonia and died when Adella was but seven years of age. The father had bought a forty acre farm two miles southwest of Monroeville, part of what is known now as the Lunenberger farm. He received his deed on February 26, 1864 and died the next month, March 17, 1864. The Civil War broke out while the mother was endeavoring to support her young family on this farm. Although Robert Coy was too young to be drafted for service, he felt the call and went as a substitute for an older man. Thus the mother was left with no one to till the soil and she had to depend upon hired help. She also, like the DeVilbiss mother, was compelled to spin her own yarn, weave her own cloth, make the clothes for herself and family. I recall stories that my own mother told me relative to dipping candles and dying cloth and of the highly prized calico dress, the goods for which was bought at a store.

Adella attended the district schools and later the Methodist College in Fort Wayne. She prepared to be a teacher as she had foresight enough to see that she should be self-reliant if she wished to get on. She was ambitious and energetic and was soon thrown upon her own resources by the death of her mother, March 1, 1875. Adella was but eighteen years of age then, the other members of the family with the exception of herself and Buchanan, were married. Buchanan married soon after and Adella made her home with "Grandma" Knouse, who owned a farm near to the Chapman farm. She taught in the local schools for three years and enjoyed numerous friends.

At the age of twenty-one years, she received a small legacy from her mother's estate. Adella's memory of her mother was very keen and she longed to see and be with people who had known her. Consequently, she felt justified in using her legacy to visit her mother's sisters, brothers and other relatives who lived in and about Butler and Mercer Counties in Pennsylvania. These were the families afore mentioned, namely Braden, Barnes, Black, Zahniser and Hogg. She took with her a recommendation for teaching, written by Jerry Hillegas, the Superintendent of Allen County schools, and thereby obtained a contract to teach the "Two Mile Run School" near Franklin, Pa.



Herewith is a copy of the recommendation written by Jerry Hillegas:

JERRY HILLEGASS.
COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT.

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE.
ALLEN COUNTY.

Fort Wayne, Ind. Aug 6. 1878.

To whom it may concern,
This is to certify that Miss Odella Chapman has taught several terms under my supervision and has given universal satisfaction. She is a lady of fine character and possesses those qualities essential to success in teaching.

Respectfully,
Jerry Hillegass
Co. Supt.

When she returned to Allen County the next year, schools had begun and she had no position. The school near Hoagland had become very unruly and the big boys were making life miserable for the school-master, Mr. Austin. They finally succeeded in "running him out", as the saying was. Adella applied for the position but the trustee was loathe to let her tackle the job. Mr. Hillegas intervened and requested that she be hired.. She undertook to manage the unruly school and thru tact and determination was successful in her attempt. I am proud to say "It was quite a feather in her cap."

Perhaps it was that very feather which attracted the attention of Thomas D. DeVilbiss. At least she became acquainted with him at this time (1779). Adella was a popular young lady but her diary shows that she cleverly reserved time to have visits with T. D. D. when he would call at the Knouse home.

While she was teaching the next year at Flat Rock, Allen Co., David Knouse, a son of the lady who had befriended her, moved to Sterling, Kansas. His wife was lonesome in her new surroundings and they feared that the melancholia might unbalance her mind. Mr. Knouse requested that Adella come west to be a companion to his wife. Ever ready to help those who needed her and there really being no family ties, Adella started for Kansas when school closed in April 1880. Mrs. Knouse improved quickly after her arrival, so much so, that by fall it was possible for Adella to attend a Normal School in Sterling, Kansas. From her diary I find that few moments were wasted. Living at the Knouse's, she did considerable housework, attended her classes, was active in church and Bible School work, made many friends and indulged in the then popular pastime of croquet. She obtained a license to teach in Kansas and also a contract for the following year.

Before taking up her school duties in the fall, she planned to visit some friends in Nickerson, Reno Co., Kansas. It was quite a drive to their home and upon her arrival there, she found the family ready to depart for a camp meeting at Kingman, Kingman, Co. Consequently, she joined their party and had the experience

of going across the prairie in a covered wagon train to the camp meeting, of living tent-life on the prairie and of singing hymns in the open along with the cow-boys, etc. The following is an extract from her autograph album:

Think of the parting
Think of the greeting
Think of the good time
We had at Camp Meeting.

Helen
Sept. 12, 1880.
Kingman, Kansas.

Early in April 1881, a short illness caused Adella to give her school over to a substitute. She had been living at Knouse's and walked back and forth to school daily, a distance of a few miles. On these walks, she had time to think of Indiana and Thomas DeVilbiss, who had become an ardent admirer and a frequent letter writer. I think she was glad when he urged her to return to Indiana, for she let the substitute finish the school term and arrived in Fort Wayne, Saturday morning, May 14, 1881. She was married that evening as told in the DeVilbiss History, with her dear friend Julia Orff (mentioned as "my Julia" in the diary) as a witness, together with Mr. J. S. Sherer, a friend who had lived in the Knouse home. It must have been a time of happy reunion with friends who had been loathe to see her go west the year before.

From then on her life parallels with that of T. D. DeVilbiss, she having the woman's portion of the establishment of a home and the bearing of a family. Her steadiness of purpose, her zeal for work, her ambition for him and for their children, her unfailing devotion, all tinged with a sense of humor was an inspiration to him and to the family, an inspiration that has brought them all on to at least a measure of success. Even though the storm, which nearly took her husband's life, was enough to put fear into any

woman's heart, she taught her children the beauty of the lightening and allowed nothing to plant the seed of fear.

In her last distressing illness, robbed of her voice, she spoke volumes with her bright eyes, her courage and her patience. Our country was in the World War and her patriotism was pronounced. It was she who thought of the flag and the "Star Spangled Banner", when the Armistice Day finally arrived. The little silk flag that had hung in her window during the war was buried over her casket. At her death, February 27, 1919, the family felt that the hub of the wheel was gone, but that it would be disloyal and untrue to let down. We felt that we must "Carry On" tho the road were more lonely. We aimed to have her same courage as we listened to the comforting words of Rev. H. B. Master and hope to pass that courage on.



The DeVilbiss home from 1903 to one year after the death of Adella Chapman DeVilbiss

A Brief Story About The DeVilbiss Company

From THE TOLEDO VISITOR,
A Publication for the Executive
and Visitor.

"Say Ah,-aaah!"

by DeVilbiss Company Director of Public Relations George Schlosser

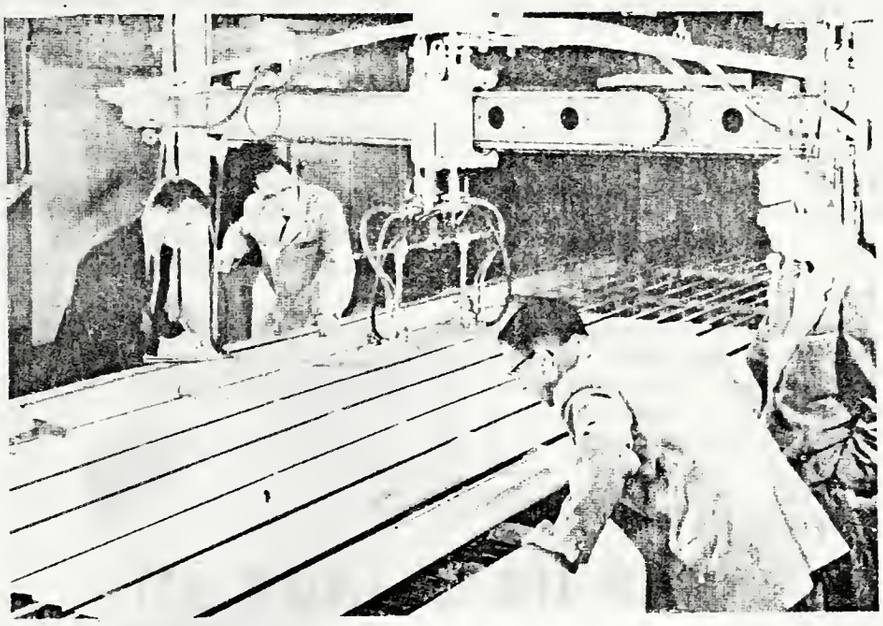
The founder of this representative Toledo company was one, Dr. Allen DeVilbiss, a country doctor. After serving through the Civil War he moved his practice to Toledo in 1885. Shortly after his arrival the course of events, set in motion by an inquiring mind, transferred the good doctor from the medical profession to an industrial career destined to make his name a by-word throughout the world.

The crude throat swabs used in the early days distressed Dr. DeVilbiss nearly as much as they did the patients. He set about developing a substitute and came up with the first workable atomizer. While it was an instant success, none cared to manufacture it so in 1888 The DeVilbiss Manufacturing Co., was formed. The new device was originally made from a can, a rubber ball, and two pieces of tubing.

A decade later his son, Thomas DeVilbiss, suggested the manufacture of perfume atomizers as an adjunct to the line. Early models were made by fitting the atomizer element to the tops of saltcellers. Soon after, paint spray guns appeared as a natural outgrowth of this growing spray industry and by 1911 paint guns had become an important part of the firm's manufacture.

The industrial development following World War I saw, among other things, the increased use of quick-drying lacquer for automobile finishes. DeVilbiss, with perfected spray guns and exhaust booths which carried off paint-saturated air, overnight removed the greatest production line bottleneck in automotive history. The automotive industry is, today, still one of the largest users of DeVilbiss equipment.

Today DeVilbiss factories, subsidiaries, and associated companies are to be found in Toledo, Detroit, Somerset Pa.; Barrie, Ontario; W. Howe, England; Sao Paulo, Brazil; Mexico D. F. Mexico; Berlin, W. Germany; Valence-Sur-Rhone, France; Sydney, Australia and in Paris France. And this tremendous growth of distribution has been paced with the development of new equipment and techniques with which to serve industry. A notable example is a completely fitted factory spray operation with which prospective users can move in their products, set up, and refinish their wares under exact operating conditions. The engineers in charge of this project recommend various innovations, run costs and time studies, and otherwise do a comprehensive job for the prospective purchaser.

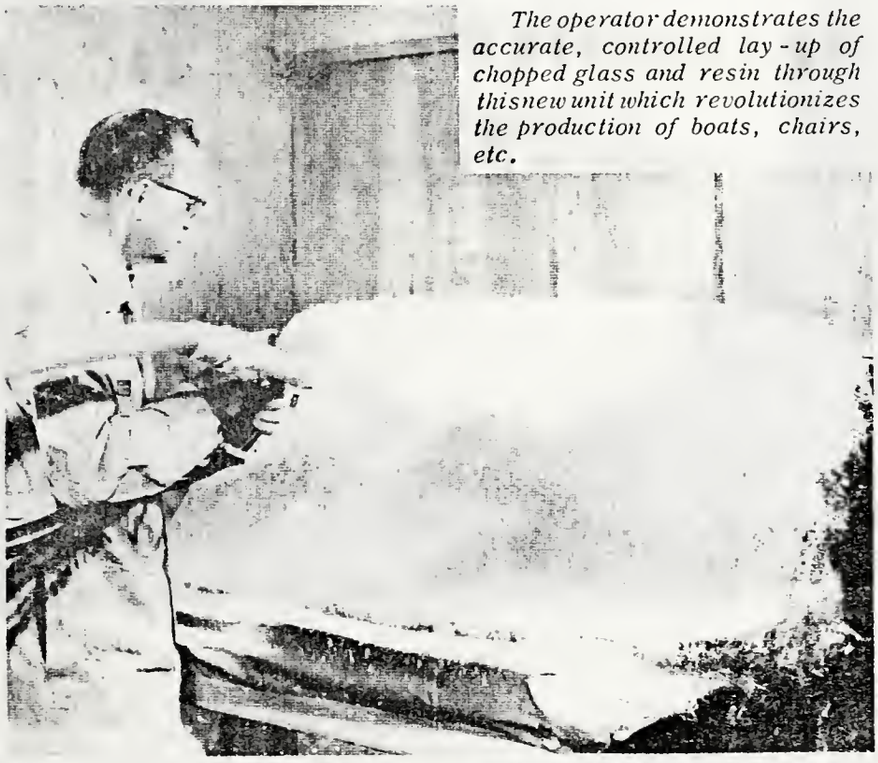


Why guess at finishing problems? Here clients can "see" how DeVilbiss spray equipment cuts time, improves quality and saves money...



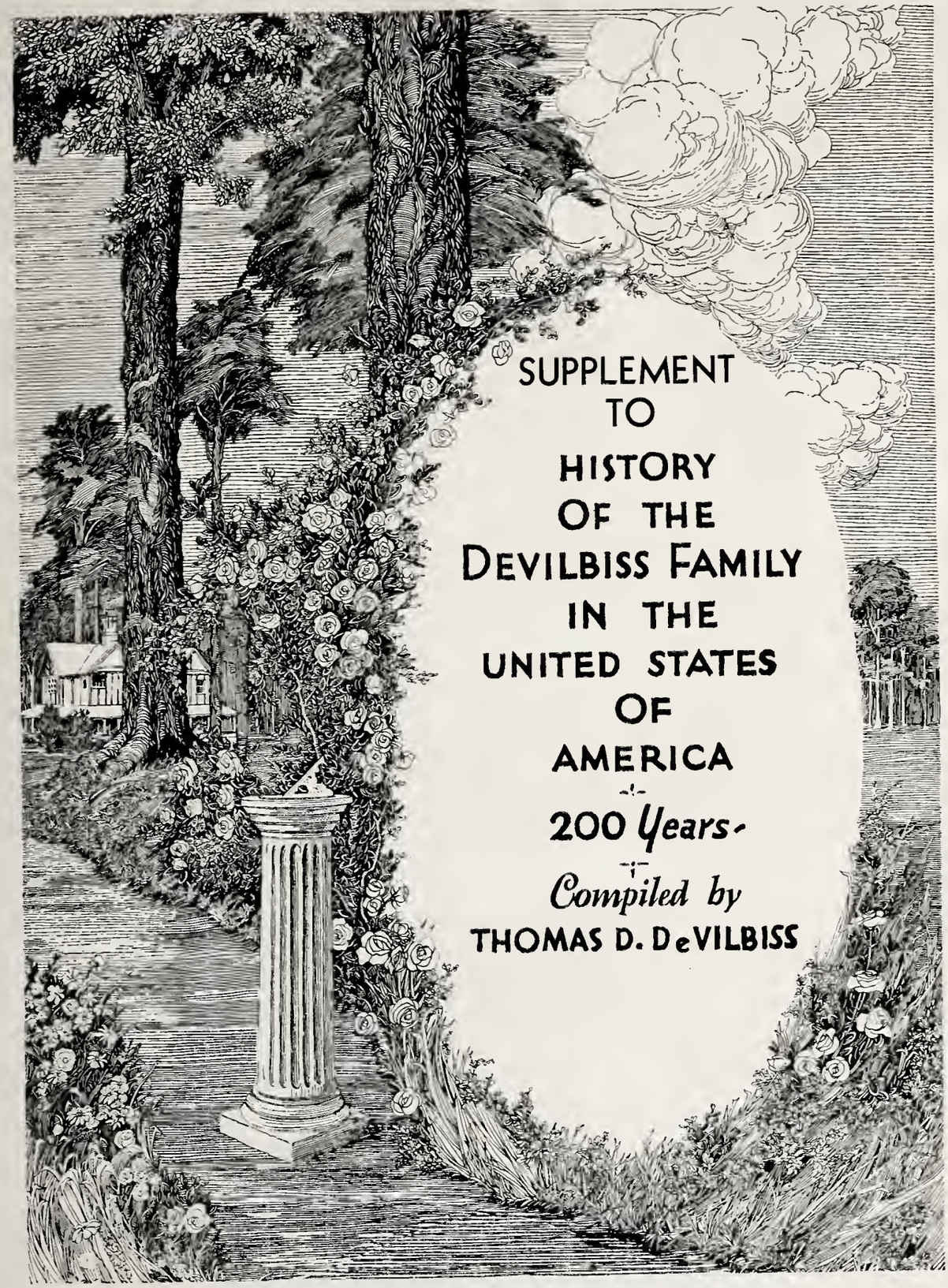
New and just announced, is a DeVilbiss spray applicator for Fiber-glass spray-up which externally blends chopped glass fiber and resin. It is a self-contained, portable unit which allows for an accurate and controlled disposition of resin alone, glass alone, or a combination of both. The operator can cover a verticle area of approximately 18 feet long and 9 feet wide or a horizontal area of approximately 16 feet long and 3 feet wide. The new device is adaptable to most production methods and shows outstanding advantages for production of spray-up molding of laminates, production of directed or open process preforms, and processing of conventional spun roving. It is expected that this equipment will aid expansion of the production of such things as boats, chairs, and similar articles. The glass fibers are achieved through a chopper and blower housing at the rear of the boom. With 45-lbs of chopper motor air pressure, the unit will produce at least three pounds per minute of chopped fiber and up to 6-lbs per minute at full capacity. Cutter blades can be adjusted so that fiber lengths can vary from 3/8 of an inch to 2 inches.

In tracing the growth of the DeVilbiss Company through the last seventy five years, one is reminded of the phrase "being in the right place at the right time". For this has truly been the pattern for this pioneer firm. The first atomizer had its place, long before spray cans and similar packages. With the development of the automotive industry DeVilbiss was first with paint guns and spray booths and located in the midst of the industry, to boot. And now with reinforced glass laminates coming into their own, DeVilbiss is on hand with a proved multi-component spray gun to make production faster and easier. No one can foretell what the future will bring, of course. But there's one good bet, DeVilbiss will likely be on hand with whatever is needed to make it go.



The operator demonstrates the accurate, controlled lay-up of chopped glass and resin through this new unit which revolutionizes the production of boats, chairs, etc.



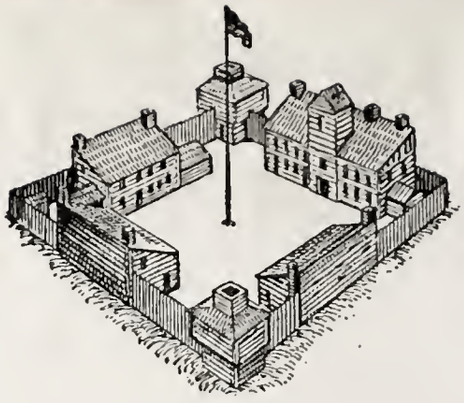


SUPPLEMENT TO HISTORY OF THE DEVILBISS FAMILY IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

200 Years

Compiled by

THOMAS D. DeVILBISS



FORT WAYNE - 1794

This book is the gift of

Mrs. Louis Dunten
(Bess De Wilbis) 4/2/63
to the

ALLEN COUNTY - FORT WAYNE

HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Fort Wayne, Indiana

No. _____

PREFACE

FIVE years have elapsed since the publication of "The History of The DeVilbiss Family." During that time I have collected much additional information which corrects errors caused by the lack of information of the early history of the family, and adds facts and dates not obtained at that time. I am also correcting certain typographical errors.

I wish to acknowledge the great assistance of the following persons who helped me to acquire the information which I now have at hand; *Howard H. Devilbiss of New Windsor, Maryland, a descendent of Casper Devilbiss, II, and Levi; *Rueben Devilbiss of Union Bridge, Maryland, and his son, Grover C. Devilbiss, descendents of Casper I, II, and III.

I am also indebted to *David Devilbiss, Johnsville, Maryland, who gave to me the original copy of The Frederick Town Herald of November 8, 1817, published at Frederick-Town, Md., which contained the advertisement of a sale of real estate of my grandfather, Alexander Devilbiss.

I trust that those who possess a copy of the original history will especially appreciate this supplement and will attach same upon the inside of their book.

Thos. D. DeVilbiss

May 12, 1932.

AT THE time of writing the original history of the DeVilbiss family, we only knew by tradition that Casper Devilbiss, of Alcase Lorraine, and his brothers had worked their way across the Atlantic. I now have in my possession a photostatic copy of pp. 28-35 incl. of the Pennsylvania Archives, Second Series, Vol. 17, which gives the passenger list of 220 immigrants on board the Ship Brittania of London, with Michael Franklin, Master, sailing from Rotterdam Sept. 21, 1731. Included in this list are the following named persons: Hans Michil Debilbissen, age 22; Hans Debelbesin, age 18; Hans Georg, age 16; Magdalena, age 18, and Casper, age 10. Hans is the German and Dutch name for John. According to an old custom, the father's name often preceeded the child's Christian name, from which we can presume that the father of these children was Hans Debelbissen.

The name Debelbissen was pronounced by a German to an English Port Official who spelled the name phonetically and the spelling was probably changed almost immediately to its present form Devilbiss. It is likely that these children came from one of the Southern German States along the Rhine because of religious persecution. Rotterdam was the port from which most of the immigrants to America left Europe. They came down the Rhine on small boats to Rotterdam, where they then embarked on the ships that were to carry them to America.*

The Ship Brittania arrived at the port of Philadelphia, but we have no record of Casper's whereabouts for a number of years after landing. His age being 10 years at the time of his qualification for sailing, would set his birth in the year of 1721. He probably was married about 1745 or 46, as his oldest son, George, was born Nov. 6, 1747. In the County Records of Frederick County, Maryland, it shows that he bought a negro slave in 1747, paying 25 pounds sterling ($125.00 in U. S.) The records of land office at Annapolis, Maryland, show that in 1751 Casper received a land grant from Great Britain for 150 acres of land in Frederick County, Maryland, and from time to time he bought other tracts of land. At the time of his death in 1777, he owned more than 3,000 acres of land in Frederick County.

The Casper Devilbiss home was located on the tract of land received from Great Britain, which was known as Bill's Hunting Lott, containing 150 acres, two miles south of Lewistown. About 200 feet from the main road is a stone house possibly built by Casper Devilbiss about 175 years ago. The walls are two feet thick, in good condition (1932) and look as if they would stand for another hundred years. On the right hand side of the drive there is a burying ground containing many unmarked graves, as well as a few with markers. One marker has the following inscription: "John Devilbiss (of Casper) Died Oct. 19, 1827, aged 77 years." Another says: "Rebecca Devilbiss, daughter of Alexander Ogle, wife of John Devilbiss, born May 17, 1755, died March 23, 1805, aged 49 years, 10 months, 6 days."

Sarah Devilbiss, daughter of John Carr, second wife of Samuel Devilbiss. Died November, 1827, aged 44 years.

One marked S. D., 1827.

No doubt Casper and his oldest son George are also buried here.

This farm is now (1929) owned by Lewis Getzendamer, of Charlestown, West Virginia.

The children of Casper C. Devilbiss, 1731-1777, and his wife Anne, according to the will, are:

1-II George Devilbiss, born Nov. 6, 1747, died July 29, 1813. Married to Elizabeth Ogle, Dec. 10, 1772. (Died May 2, 1800).

2-II John Devilbiss, born 1750, died Oct. 19, 1827, 77 years old. Married to Rebecca Ogle, daughter of Alexander Ogle. (Born May 17, 1755, died March 23, 1805). Second marriage to Martha Devilbiss (widow) Nov. 14, 1807.

3-II Casper Devilbiss, born Oct. 1761, died Dec. 20, 1835.

4-II Ann Devilbiss Ramsbergh.

5-II Susannah Devilbiss Ramsbergh.

6-II Barbara Devilbiss Fleming.

(See pages 16-18.)

The children of George and Elizabeth Ogle Devilbiss from the family record follows: (Elizabeth Ogle was of English descent. The first Ogles came to America in 1665, and Samuel was thrice Governor of Province of Maryland.) (The Compendium of

*Maryland Society-Sons of the American Revolution. Organized April 20, 1889.

American Geneology, Vol. IV).

1-III John, born March 15, 1775, died 1847. (Died at Canton, Mo.)

2-III George, born Feb. 20, 1777, died 1813.

3-III Susanna, born Dec. 20, 1777, died at age of 2 weeks, 3 days.

4-III Alexander, born Jan. 18, 1780, died Dec. 10, 1831.

5-III Casper, born May 3, 1782, lived 10 months, 4 days.

6-III Rebecca, born Jan. 14, 1784.

7-III Elizabeth, born March 4, 1786.

8-III Casper, born Dec. 25, 1786, died 1835.

9-III Jacob, born Easter, 1790, lived 4 years, 4 months, 5 days.

The foregoing record was taken from my great grandfather's family record which I found in an antique shop at 314 W. Market St., York, Pennsylvania, Sept. 16, 1929. York is about seventy-five miles from the farm of George Devilbiss, in Frederick County, Maryland. I have this old record in my possession, framed and under glass to protect it from the ravages of time. The last entry was made 119 years ago.

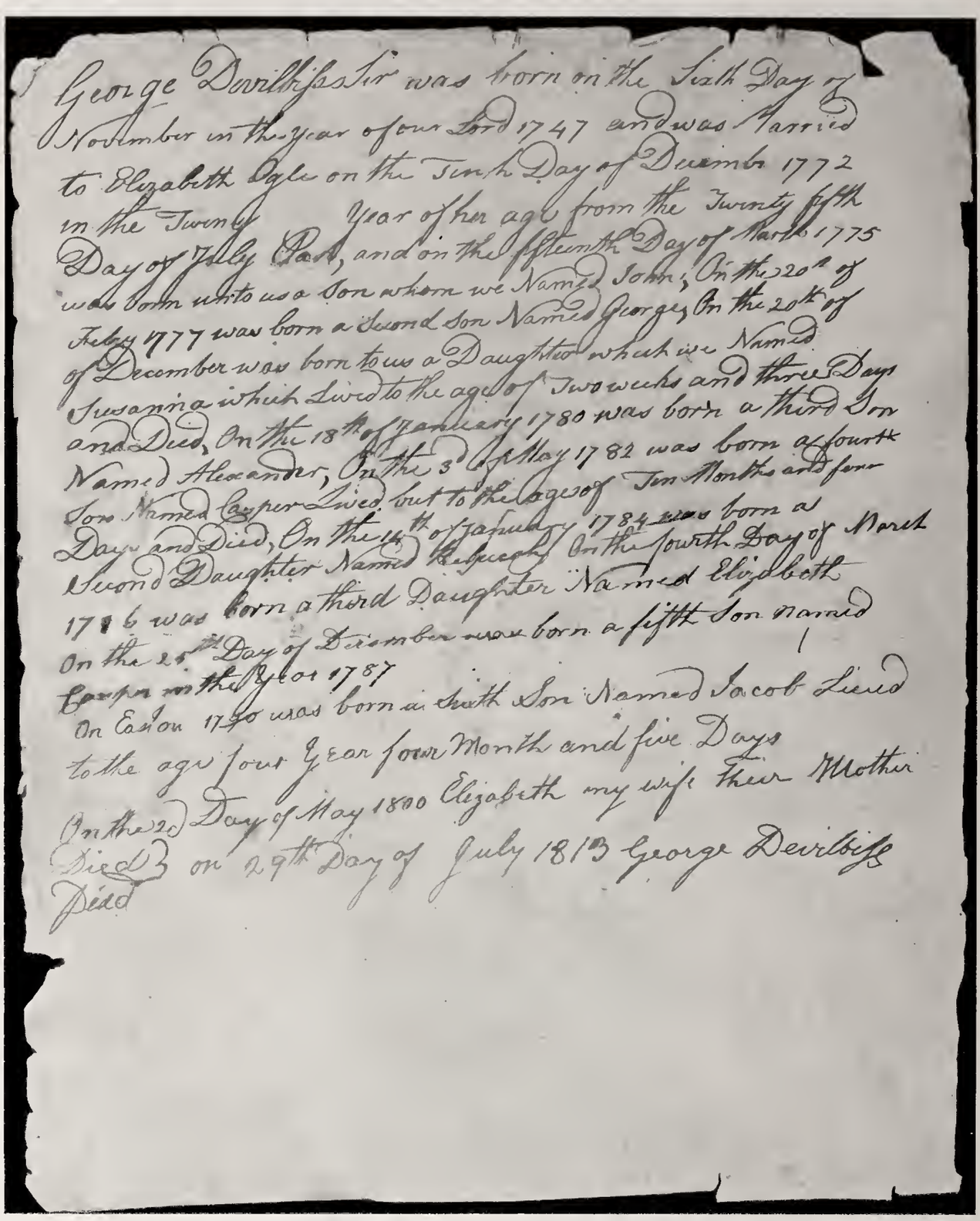
In this same antique shop I found a beautiful sampler, 12x20 inches. It had been made by Elizabeth Ogle Devilbiss and was in a neat frame. This sampler was worked with different colors of floss, some of which have faded and cannot be read with the naked eye. Following is a copy of the words appearing on the sampler. They are enclosed in a border of ornamental needlework.

Come children, 'tis Jesus that calls
The voice of your Savior obey.
When Jesus invites you to come,
No disciple shall turn you away.
The children He folds in His arms
Must surely be blessed, indeed,
For Jesus alone can bestow
The spiritual blessed their need.
With early virtue plant thy breast,
The precious arts of vice detest.

Elizabeth Ogle Devilbiss finished her sampler in the 13th year of her age in the year of our Lord 1820.



Three-pound Pewter Basin, brought to America by Priscilla Dean on the Mayflower, a treasured relic of Alexander Devilbiss family.



George Devilbiss Sir was born on the Sixth Day of
November in the year of our Lord 1747 and was Married
to Elizabeth Ogle on the Tenth Day of Decemb 1772
in the Twenty Year of his age from the Twenty fifth
Day of July Past, and on the fifteenth Day of March 1775
was born unto us a Son whom we Named John; On the 20th of
Feby 1777 was born a Second Son Named George; On the 20th of
of December was born to us a Daughter whom we Named
Susanna which Lived to the age of Two weeks and three Days
and Died, On the 18th of January 1780 was born a third Son
Named Alexander, On the 3d of May 1782 was born a fourth
Son Named Casper Lived but to the age of Ten Months and four
Days and Died, On the 4th of January 1784 was born a
Second Daughter Named Rebecca On the fourth Day of March
1786 was born a third Daughter Named Elizabeth
On the 25th Day of December was born a fifth Son named
Casper on the 8th of 1787
On Easter 1790 was born a Sixth Son Named Jacob Lived
to the age four Year four Month and five Days
On the 2d Day of May 1800 Elizabeth my wife their Mother
Died on 29th Day of July 1813 George Devilbiss
Died

Photostatic Copy of George Devilbiss Family Record



Elizabeth Ogle Devilbiss Sampler. Reduced from Original

(See page 18).

John Devilbiss, the second son of Casper C., was born in Frederick County, 1750. He was married to Rebecca Ogle, who died March 23, 1805. He was married on Nov. 14, 1807, a second time to Martha Devilbiss, a widow with at least two sons. His father, Casper C., had willed to him "all those tracts or parcels of land called Mill Seat resurvey on Bill's Meadow and Dear Park, containing about seven hundred and two acres, with all the buildings and improvements thereunto belonging or in anyways appertaining." (See Will, pages 16-17).

John Devilbiss died Oct. 9, 1827, at the age of 77 years. He left a will probated Oct. 30, 1827, in which he mentioned his wife, Martha. He made bequests to his wife's son, George Devilbiss, and his wife's second son, John Devilbiss. He also bequeathed to his son Samuel.

Casper (3-II) third son of Casper C. Devilbiss was born in Frederick County, Oct. 1761. He married Susannah Derr on May 22, 1786. His father had willed to him in 1777 as follows: "I give and bequeath unto my son, Casper Devilbiss, his heirs and assigns forever, all that tract or parcel of land called the Resurvey on Leonards Range, containing about six hundred and fifty acres of land, with all the buildings and improvements thereunto, belonging, or in anywise appertaining, also I give and bequeath unto my son, Casper Devilbiss, one hundred pounds Current Money that is to be raised or levied out of my movable estate." (See Will, page 16).

At that time Casper was only 16 years of age. I have a letter dated at New Windsor, Md., from his great grandson, Howard H. Devilbiss, in which he says Casper C. (I) bought Leonard's Range in 1765 from Great Britain and paid one pound sterling per acre, and that Casper (II) had twelve children, one of whom was named Levi. Levi's son George was the father of said Howard H. Devilbiss, who owns a part of the original tract, upon which Howard's son, George Devilbiss lives, representing the sixth generation, holding this land under the same name, a period of 176 years. George Devilbiss occupies the same stone house built by Casper (II) and operates a large dairy farm. (1932).

On this farm there is a Devilbiss burying lot, upon which there are a number of markers made of natural slate stone. They are all in good condition. The writer made a record of the family markers.

Casper, son of Casper C. Devilbiss. Died Dec. 20, 1835. Age 74 years, 2 months.

Susanna Devilbiss. Died 1830. Age 62 years, 8 months.

Levi Devilbiss. Born Oct. 22, 1796. Died Oct. 1, 1852. Age 55 years, 11 months, 10 days.

Sarah, Consort of Levi Devilbiss. Died March 4, 1855. Age 59 years, 1 month, 14 days. Marriage records show that Levi Devilbiss married Sarah Nicodemus Sept. 9, 1822.

In another burying ground at Bethel M. E. Church the following inscriptions are on grave stones.

Thomas Devilbiss, son of Casper (II) Died July 12, 1878. Age 76 years, 9 months, 11 days.

Mary H. Devilbiss, wife of Thomas Devilbiss. Died Jan. 28, 1894. Age 85 years, 5 months, 17 days.

Casper (III) Died Mar. 24, 1868. Age 72 years, 10 months, 23 days.

Ann Elender, wife of Casper Devilbiss. Died Jan. 23, 1888. Age 82 years, 3 months, 20 days.

In Casper II's will, he names four sons: Casper, Levi, Thomas, and John, and three daughters: Caty Angel, Susanna and Nancy Nicodemus. This accounts for seven of his twelve children, perhaps all that were living at the time of his death in 1835. An original sale bill of Casper's personal property now in possession of Howard H. Devilbiss is dated Jan. 18, 1836. It contains the usual articles mentioned in a farm sale, and also one pair of deer. There were mentioned three desks, one of which is now in possession of this Howard H. Devilbiss.

I believe this gives a good line on all of the male descendents of Casper C. Devilbiss (I) to the third generation, and covering a period of the first one hundred years of the family in America. From this point, I am following only the descendants of my great grandfather, George Devilbiss.

ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS
(Pages 22 and 23.)

1-III John Devilbiss.

Mary C., daughter of George O. Devilbiss (3-IV) died Dec. 16, 1930. Age 84 years, 8 months, 17 days. Buried at Canton, Mo., Catholic cemetery.

4-IV Alexander.

1-V John Andrew, born Nov. 9, 1838, Winters, Calif.
His children were:

VI John S., deceased at 29 years.

VI Leonard C., deceased at 28 years.
Graduate from Notre Dame University.

VI Mary.

VI Esther, deceased.

VI Lena.

6-VI Anna, married Sparks, Winters, Cal.

2-V Alexander, a farmer, died Jan. 12, 1929.

5-IV John A. Devilbiss should read 5-VI, as he is the fifth son of Alexander 2-V. John A. has four sisters and four brothers.

(Page 24.)

5-IV Andrew Devilbiss.

While Andrew Devilbiss was serving with the Confederate forces in Georgia, he obtained a furlough to visit his family at New Orleans. On his arrival there he learned that they were at Jackson, Miss., so he went there, walking the entire way from the Georgia Border, owing to the fact that he had received payment in Georgia money, which was of no value elsewhere. On the road he composed the following stanzas:

T'was on a bright March morning
That I bade Orleans adieu
Being on my way to Jackson
Where I was forced to go.
The cursed Georgia money
No credit here could gain
Which filled my heart with sorrow
On the Lake of Pontchartrain.

'Mid swamps and alligators
Then I did make my way
O'er railroad ties and crossings
Which neath my feet did play
Till in the dusk of evening
Some highlands I did gain
Where I met a lovely creole
On the Lake of Pontchartrain.

Said I to her, "Fair damsel,
My money is no good
Were it not for alligators
I'd lie out in the wood."
Said she, "You're welcome in here, stranger
No money would in gain
We always keep a traveler
On the Lake of Pontchartrain.

She took me to her mother's house,
They treated me quite well.
Long black hair around her shoulders
In graceful ringlets fell
To try to paint her beauty
By me would be in vain
So lovely was the creole
On the Lake of Pontchartrain.

Fairwell, you gentle damsel
I will never see you more
But I'll always think with gratitude
Of the cottage on the shore,
And when in social circle
The flaming bowl I drain,
I'll always toast the creole
On the Lake of Ponchartrain.

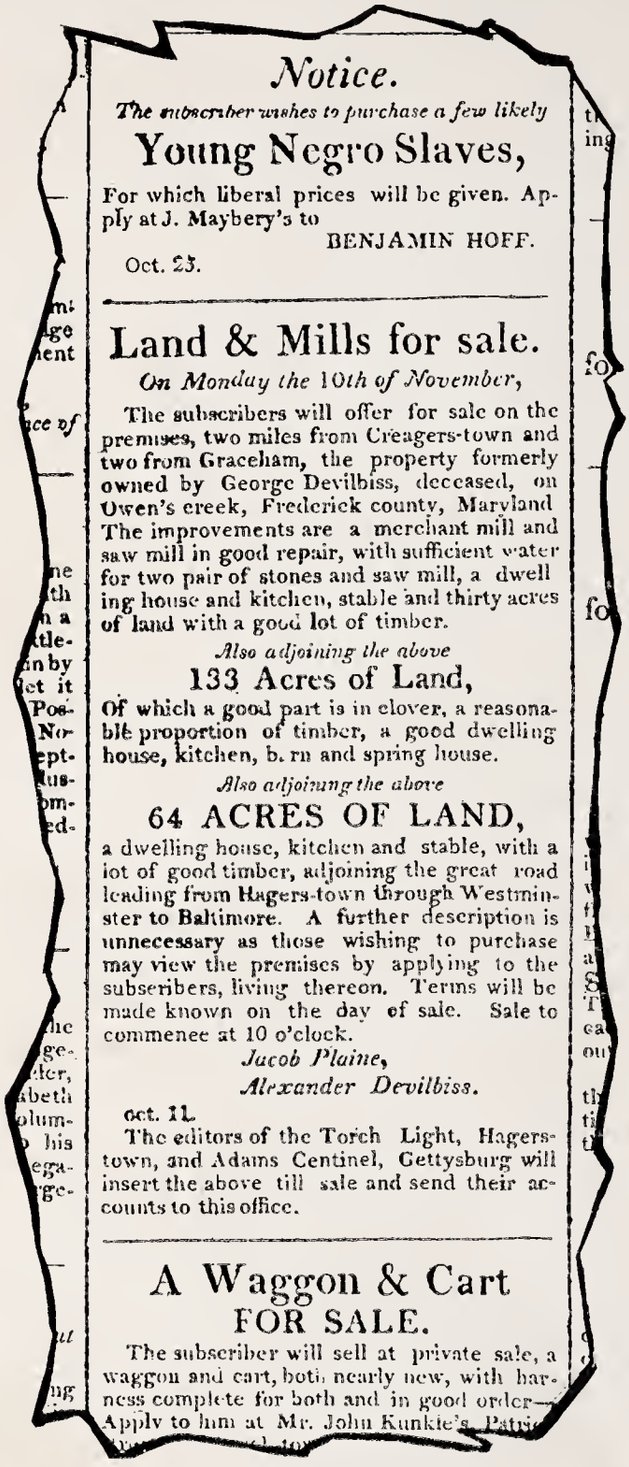
—Andrew Devilbiss.

This poem was furnished by his granddaughter, Hattie DeVilbiss (p. 250), now Mrs. Eugene L. Swift, of Springfield, Ill. Major Swift is a physician.

(Page 25).

2-III George Devilbiss.

The sons of George Devilbiss (2-III) were George (1-IV), and William (2-IV), who came to Ohio in 1819 with their uncle, Alexander Devilbiss (3-III), where they lived in the town of Alexandria.



Notice.

The subscriber wishes to purchase a few likely

Young Negro Slaves,

For which liberal prices will be given. Apply at J. Maybery's to

BENJAMIN HOFF.

Oct. 25.

Land & Mills for sale.

On Monday the 10th of November,

The subscribers will offer for sale on the premises, two miles from Creagers-town and two from Graceham, the property formerly owned by George Devilbiss, deceased, on Owen's creek, Frederick county, Maryland The improvements are a merchant mill and saw mill in good repair, with sufficient water for two pair of stones and saw mill, a dwelling house and kitchen, stable and thirty acres of land with a good lot of timber.

Also adjoining the above

133 Acres of Land,

Of which a good part is in clover, a reasonable proportion of timber, a good dwelling house, kitchen, barn and spring house.

Also adjoining the above

64 ACRES OF LAND,

a dwelling house, kitchen and stable, with a lot of good timber, adjoining the great road leading from Hagers-town through Westminster to Baltimore. A further description is unnecessary as those wishing to purchase may view the premises by applying to the subscribers, living thereon. Terms will be made known on the day of sale. Sale to commence at 10 o'clock.

Jacob Plaine,
Alexander Devilbiss.

oct. 11.

The editors of the Torch Light, Hagerstown, and Adams Centinel, Gettysburg will insert the above till sale and send their accounts to this office.

A Waggon & Cart FOR SALE.

The subscriber will sell at private sale, a waggon and cart, both nearly new, with harness complete for both and in good order—Apply to him at Mr. John Kunkle's, Patri-

George (1-IV) was in the Civil War, a soldier of the Union Army and was wounded at Fort Donelson. He was taken to Cincinnati where he died and was buried. His wife Nancy is buried at Alexandria. To them was born a son *George (1-V) in Alexandria in 1840. He also served in the Union Army. He was married to Mary Adelaide Skinner of Alexandria in 1866. They later lived in Chicago, Ill., where they raised a family of two sons, William and Fred, and a daughter *Jeanette. George died in Chicago, Feb. 12, 1931, at the home of his daughter, Jeanette DeVilbiss Jenkins.

(Page 27).

3-III Alexander Devilbiss.

Alexander, the third son of George and Elizabeth Ogle Devilbiss, was born at the old Casper Devilbiss home on Bill's Hunting Lot in Frederick County, Maryland, Jan. 18, 1780. His mother passed away in 1800. The father and family lived at this place until 1805, at which time he bought a plantation known as Benjamin's Advice (236 acres) and upon which he built two houses, one of stone and one of logs, a flour mill and a saw mill. There they operated the mills and there the father passed away in 1813. He willed this property to Alexander and his brother Casper, who were made executors of the estate. (See pages 19-20). Alexander continued to live on the place and operated the mills until Saturday, Nov. 8, 1817, when the accompanying advertisement appeared in the Frederick-Town Herald. The original copy of this paper is in my possession.

No doubt Alexander had it in mind to move to Ohio at the time, but delayed the trip until 1819, because of the birth of his fourth son, John Wesley, Aug. 28, 1818, and the death of his older son Lemuel, Dec. 4, 1818.

The stone house is still standing and is occupied. The log house was being torn down by the owner, W. W. Heffner, the timbers to be used in constructing another building. There are still traces of the old mills. I have a small piece of stone broken from one of the mill stones.

THE ALEXANDER CENTENNIAL

THE PLAN of celebrating the 100th anniversary of the founding of the town of Alexandria, Ohio, was well carried out at that place on the days of Aug. 30-31, Sept. 1, 1930. No effort on the part of the citizens was spared in preparing the programs, decorating the town for the occasion and extending hospitality to the descendents of Alexander Devilbiss.

The celebration began on Saturday, Aug. 30, with a splendid parade through the main streets of the village. Surrounding towns assisted with their bands and floats decorated by their lodges and churches and other organizations. It was pageant-like with its costumed personages, representing "The Spirit of the Past," Indian lore, explorers, hunters, surveyors, frontier men, including Christopher Gist and Johnny Appleseed. There were depicted many representative early settlers on horseback, including a portrayal of Alexander Devilbiss himself, as well as others who rode in the genuine old covered wagon, all paying tribute to the Devilbiss family, members of which rode in the parade in the very modern automobiles. These contrasted strongly with the procession of antique vehicles, each carrying passengers adorned in all the finery both fantastic and beautiful, representing the past decades. The early circuit rider, and the log-cabin float were especially interesting, as was also the one which carried two men laboring industriously with flails.

At the close of the parade, the old Lewis house, in which there had been arranged a fine display of antique furniture, fireplace fittings, quilts, glassware, pewter and many other articles, was formally opened to the public by *Miss Ollie Parker, Chairman of the antique committee. One of the most treasured articles was a three-pound pewter wash basin, brought to America by Priscilla Dean, on the epochal voyage of the Mayflower. It was one of the valued relics of the Alexander Devilbiss family. A playlet, prepared by Miss Parker, portrayed interesting bits of tradition of St. Albans Township History. Prof. *Harlow Lindley, Curator of History at the Ohio State Museum, delivered the principal address of the afternoon.

THE FOUNDER'S program of Sunday afternoon was held in the Baptist Church. In spite of the rain, a large group who were unable to get seats inside listened to the program through the amplifiers outside. The program was conducted by Walter Castle. *Mayor William E. Huffman paid tribute to the pioneers, who founded the town, in his opening address. Thomas DeVilbiss of Fort Wayne, Ind., grandson of the founder, responded with an interesting account of the family and his experiences in connection with his trips to Alexandria, and his efforts for the Alexandria Centennial. Professors *W. L. Graves and *O. C. Hooper of Ohio State University, both natives of St. Albans Township, gave interesting addresses filled with reminiscences of Alexandria, as they remembered the town fifty and sixty years ago respectively. Lt. Gov. John Brown brought greetings from the State of Ohio. Dr. Bunyan Spencer of Granville, formerly pastor of the Baptist Church in 1900, closed the afternoon's program.

PAGEANT

On Monday morning at 11 o'clock the pageant was given on the church lawn. "Along the Raccoon Trail," the Alexandria Centennial pageant told the story of St. Albans Township from the coming of



Old covered wagon, appearing in Centennial Parade.



Home of Alexander Devilbiss in Alexandria, Ohio
This was the first house built in the village, and was contructed by the owner



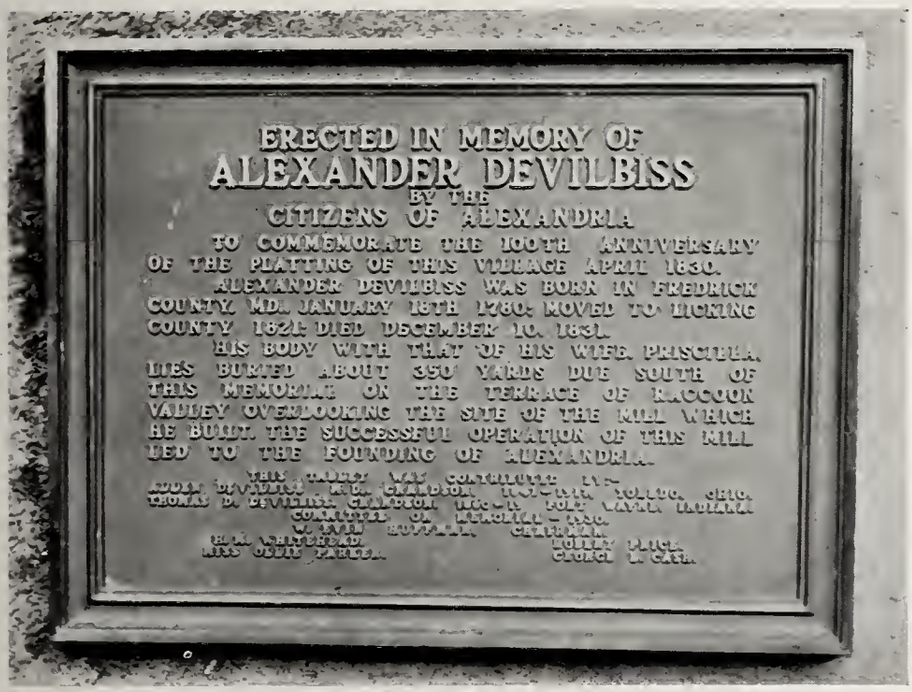
Scene from the Pageant. A Group of Frontiersmen
The Second from the Left Portrays Alexander Devilbiss

Christopher Gist, the Virginia surveyor who passed down the Raccoon trail in 1750, and Billy Dragoo, the captive boy who was taken up the trail by Indians thirty years later, the pageant then proceeded to picture the coming of the pioneers, the founding of Alexandria and the development of the industrial and social life of the community. Close upon a rollicking barn dance with its corn husking, a red ear, cider and the old time fiddling, came the note of tragedy in the person of an underground railway scene which precluded the Civil War. The spirit of '61 to '65 and of 1918 was shown in a series of war scenes. The present was pictured by Mother Earth from whose gigantic hoop skirt sprang forth a host of vegetables who danced gaily in representation of the flourishing possibilities of the present day. After them came the boys and girls of the future who built a pyramid symbolizing the Alexandria of the future. The pageant closed with a grand finale of all the cast.

The pageant was written by *Robert Price, a local man, who is a graduate of Denison and Ohio State universities and who is now teaching in the latter institution. It was staged by *Dr. G. B. Cash.



Native Granite Boulder, Weighing over Five Tons, Bearing the Tablet in Memory of Alexander Devilbiss. Alexandria, Ohio.



Monday afternoon was given over to unveiling the monument. A number of fine addresses were delivered. The Devilbiss family was seated on the stage.

Dr. Davison read a cablegram from Ambassador Charles Dawes, whose grandfather once lived in the township and telegram from the Chamber of Commerce of Alexandria, Virginia. Rev. Ray C. McMillan read a poem sent by Rev. J. A. DeVilbiss of St. Louis, Mo. After this the monument was unveiled by two great, great granddaughters of Alexander Devilbiss, Eleanor and Janet DeVilbiss, daughters of E. B. DeVilbiss of Philadelphia. The K. P. quartette closed the services with a number.

The Centennial exercise closed with a street dance on Monday evening under the direction of a large crowd from the community and surrounding towns.

TO THE MEMORY OF ALEXANDER AND PRISCILLA DEVILBISS

Today we walk with heads in reverence bent
To honor the name of the pioneer, who spent
His life mid dangers great in honest toil,
That flowers might grow in this our native soil.
His grave and hers, his once young blushing bride
Who strong in living faith stood by his side,
Lie yonder o nthe hilltop's grassy crest
Fit biding place for them to take their rest,
Who, guarding spirits of the watermill
Where they still hear of the rushing Raccoon spill
Its spring tide flood on its creaking wheel
And sense the joys they cannot tell but feel
Keep prayerful watch from bright lit heights above
O'er kin and friend and all who claim their love
We cut their names in stone with hammered tool,
An act of wisdom borrowed from the fool;
If thus we think to make their names to last
And cover the present with the glory of the past
Unless their record as we know it's been
Was written in the hearts of their fellowmen.
Full well we kno wour work is not in vain
For winter's frost and summer's welcomed rain
Will cut and smooth this stone's hard rugged face,
Nay leave no trace of what was on this place
Before their kin and loving village lore
Forget the names that they in time with honor bore;
Come my child and we'll in reverence kneel
And let our kin-blood the pulsing rapture feel
That's given those, whose forebears stout and strong
Nobled their toil by love and hated wrong,
Who cut the ties to build and broke the sod
And sowed their seed, blessing all with the psalms of God.

REV. J. A. DeVILBISS.

The following list is of the members of the Devilbiss family who attended the centennial:

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas D. DeVilbiss, Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Bowser, Bess DeVilbiss Dunten and L. H. Dunten, Ft. Wayne, Ind.; Grover C. Devilbiss, Reuben, Susie, Effie M., David M., Albert and Mr. and Mrs. Edward Devilbiss, M. D. Smith and Mrs. Sadie Devilbiss Spurrier, Union Bridge, Md.; Mr. and Mrs. Howard Devilbiss, Mr. and Mrs. E. Clarence Ensor, Miss Ethel Ensor, Mrs. Nellie D. Bond, Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Devilbiss, and Mr .and Mrs. Robert Helwig, New Windsor, Md.; Mr. and Mrs. George P. Devilbiss, New Midway, Md.; Mr. and Mrs. H. Roland Devilbiss and Chas. L. Devilbiss and family, Hyattsville, Md.; Mr. and Mrs. Frank DeVilbiss and two children and Mr. and Mrs. Samuel DeVilbiss, Detroit, Mich.; Mrs. Mary Harwood Wingate, Mr. and Mrs. F. L. Harwood and Winifred Hicks, Lyons, Ind.

Mr. and Mrs. Don Rex Hart, Nancy Ann Hart, Mrs. Laura Daubenspeck, and Henry Daubenspeck, Worthington, Ind.; Janet DeVilbiss, E. B. DeVilbiss and Eleanor DeVilbiss, Merion Station, Pa.; Mr. and Mrs. Frank A. DeVilbiss, Thomas A. DeVilbiss, Jr. and Bonnie Jean DeVilbiss, Lima, O.; Dr. H. A. Wildman, Wooster, O.; Mr. and Mrs. Lew D. Wallace, Bickness, Ind.; Mr. and Mrs. F. L. Franklin, Akron, O.; Velma Miller, Spencerville, O.

If any names have been omitted, it is because we have no way of telling that they are of the Devilbiss family. In some instance the name is spelled with a capital V. The name is the same but the branch of the family that came west changed the way of spelling the name in later years.

It will be of interest to many to know the source of the funds which have provided the monument to the memory of Alexander Devilbiss, founder of Alexandria.

The bronze tablet, as the inscription thereon indicates, was contributed by Allen DeVilbiss, M. D., of Toledo, Ohio, 1841-1917, a grandson, who founded the DeVilbiss Manufacturing Company of Toledo; and by Thomas D. DeVilbiss of Fort Wayne, Ind., also grandson who has had a prominent place in all parts of the centennial activities. The rest of the expenses were paid from a community fund which was raised in 1917 at a concert sponsored by Sophronia Carter and Robert Price. The immediate purpose for which the receipts were intended at the time did not materialize, so the money was placed on interest first in treasury savings certificates and later in the Alexandria Bank. In the thirteen years, the amount had almost doubled. The entire sum was turned over to the Centennial committee with the understanding that it should be applied to the monument. The larger part of the work connected with the erection of the memorial was donated by Dr. G. B. Cash, chairman of the monument committee, and his corps of assistants.

Note Changes

Page 51

2-V Thomas Alexander.

Children of Thomas Alexander and Winnie Harris DeVilbiss.

1-VI Collins H., Born Dec. 11, 1871. Married Maggie Stagner, Dec. 16, 1894.

2-VI Lucinda A., Born Aug. 11, 1873. Married David W. Hindes, Oct. 14, 1891.

3-VI Luther, Born Feb. 2, 1875. Married Fannie Hindes, Feb. 22, 1899.

4-VI Ernest, Born July 12, 1876. Married Mae Hindes, May 22, 1901.

5-VI Effie, Born Nov. 23, 1877. Married Jackson W. Ward, Aug. 20, 1898.

6-VI Susie, Born Sept. 3, 1879. Married J. A. Carter, Aug. 22, 1900. (Deceased). Married McCauley.

7-VI Hixie, Born Jan. 21, 1881. Married George W. Curtis, June 12, 1907.

8-VI Lottie, Born Oct. 24, 1882. Married Crofford Laxton, Dec. 20, 1905.

9-VI Thomas, Born Oct. 1, 1884. Died Oct. 24, 1884.

3-VI *Luther DeVilbiss.

Born Feb. 2nd., 1875, San Antonio, Texas.

Married Fannie Hindes, Feb. 22nd., 1899. Died Jan. 25, 1911.

One child born, Grace DeVilbiss Carter, to this union.

Married Mrs. Johnnie Martin Moore, June 8th., 1913. Died, Oct. 24, 1925.

Married Mrs. Ida B. Woodward May 11th., 1927. Died, June 23, 1931.

1-VII *Grace DeVilbiss.

Born March 31st., 1905.

Married J. Frank Carter, June 8th., 1924.

Her children:

1-VIII William Luther Carter, Born March 28th., 1925.

2-VIII Fannie Grace Carter, Born Dec. 21st., 1929.

(Page 30.)

2-IV William.

Died February, 1865.

7-IV Hester Ann.

Born Dec. 14, 1824, Licking County, Ohio.

Married W. S. Foster, Sept. 18, 1845.

Married Hitchcock in Texas. They had Priscilla (deceased), Matthew (deceased) and James A. now residing in Livingston, Tex. (1932).

(Page 32.)

2-IV William Devilbiss.

Was twice married, first to Ruth Carpenter. She lived a little over a year after her marriage and had no children. Married Julia Cornell, the mother of his children.

1-IV *Lewis Devilbiss.

His wife, Angeline Boyer, died April 16, 1931. A correct list of their children follows:

1-IV Howard, born Aug. 10, 1866, died Apr. 20, 1869.

2-VI Reuben A., Bloomfield, Ind., born Nov. 4, 1868.

3-VI Katie Ann, born Mar. 27, 1871, married Emery Neidigh, died Dec. 16, 1927.

4-VI John Milton, Modesto, Cal., born Mar. 15, 1873.

5-VI George Lewis, Seattle, Wash., born Feb. 21, 1876.

6-VI Jennie Lillian, Altamont, Kan., born Oct. 6, 1878. Married Byron Dixon.

7-VI Laura Edith, Worthington, Ind., born July 26, 1887. Married Henry Daubenspeck.

8-VI Charles Byron, born Oct. 7, 1883, died Dec. 31, 1927.

9-VI Frances Frederick, Parsons, Kan., born July 13, 1886.

10-VI Ernest William, born Nov. 18, 1888, died Nov. 3, 1895.

(Page 46.) (Page 62.)

3-V Laurinda DeVilbiss Bowser.

Died Jan. 1, 1928, age 84 years, 4 days. Buried at Lindenwood, Fort Wayne, Ind.

(Page 51.)

4-V John Wesley.

Died Jan. 31, 1885.

Martha Agnes DeVilbiss was the second daughter of John W. and Martha L. Born June 18, 1854, at Burleson, Texas. Married Thomas P. Franklin, Oct. 23, 1879. Died Dec. 14, 1925. Buried in McMillan County, Texas. She was the mother of eight children.

(Page 57.)

1-VII Allen D. Gutchess.

3-VIII Allen DeVilbiss Gutchess, Jr., Born May 13, 1928, Toledo, Ohio.

3-VII Edith Gutchess Jamison.

1-VIII Edgar Merritt Jamison, Jr., Born Aug. 27, 1928, Toledo, Ohio.

1-VII Hazel DeVilbiss Shuey.

4-VIII Susan Lydia Shuey, Born Dec. 21, 1927, Toledo, Ohio.

(Page 58.)

2-VII Paul Allen DeVilbiss.

Born Feb. 20, 1897, Toledo, Ohio. Married Clara Davis, Feb. 21, 1929.

1-VIII Ann DeVilbiss, Born Jan. 15, 1930, Toledo, Ohio.

1-VII Marjorie Penoyar Storey.

1-VIII Daniel Darwin Storey. Born June 21, 1928, Toledo, Ohio.

5-VI Thomas A. DeVilbiss.
Died Nov. 9, 1928.

2-VIII Virginia.
Born Mar. 23, 1914.

(Page 66.)
I-VI Allen A. Bowser.
Married Clara A. Crawford, Oct. 4, 1929.

(Page 67.)
1-VII Jennie Bowser McKay.

3-VIII Jane Elizabeth McKay. Born July 30, 1931, Fort Wayne, Ind.

(Page 73.)
2-VI Adella DeVilbiss.
Died June 5, 1931. Buried Peru, Ind.

(Page 78.)
5-VI Marion DeVilbiss Poole.

2-VII Nancy.

(Page 91.)
Bess Beatrice DeVilbiss Dunten.

3-VII Louie Heber Dunten, Jr., Born Jan 6. 1929, Fort Wayne, Ind.

WITH DEEP regret and a profound regard for the mysteries of life, I find it necessary to record here the passing of my nephew and namesake, Thomas A. DeVilbiss, of Toledo, Ohio, son of Dr. Allen DeVilbiss, who was cut off in the full flower of vigorous young manhood on Nov. 9, 1928. All have felt his loss so keenly; his going affected not only his immediate family, but his more remote relatives as well as the whole city of Toledo, whose private and civic organizations reaped so much of his abilities. We record here only two of the many editorials and resolutions which were published in recognition of his services to his community.

Toledo Blade, Nov. 10, 1928

A TRIBUTE TO THOMAS A. DeVILBISS

Adopted by The Board of Trustees, The Toledo Chamber of Commerce November 10, 1928

Men make cities—men like Thomas A. DeVilbiss.

A community may have many natural advantages, but unless it possesses men of high ideals, sympathy, faith, vision, initiative, energy, determination, courage and personality, together with administrative ability and motivated by a desire to be of public service, it cannot become a great city.

Essential and important as these requisites are, it is only at rare intervals that they are the dominant qualities of one man. Thomas A. DeVilbiss, respected, admired and beloved by all Toledo, the city which he helped to build, was such a man.

Born in a small Indiana village a little more than fifty years ago, Mr. DeVilbiss came to Toledo in his early boyhood. Here he attended school and began to make the friendships that lasted throughout his eventful life. Perhaps the first display of his vision and ability came when he voluntarily gave up the career he had planned for himself to co-operate with his aging father in organizing the company which later became the greatest of its kind in the world.

Always an active member of the Chamber of Commerce and having served as its President in 1922-23, his death is a great loss to this organization as well as to many of Toledo's civic and philanthropic institutions.

For thirteen years, up until the time of his going, he was a member of the Board of Education, in which, like other things, he took an active and leading part. It was ever his desire and aim to see the public school system of Toledo the best in the country.

He was a past president and an active member of the Toledo Rotary Club. An enthusiastic yachtsman, he was a past commodore of both the Toledo Yacht Club and the Interlake Yachting Association. He was also a member of the Toledo and Inverness Clubs.

Always showing a great faith and interest in boys and young men, he was active in the Boy Scout movement and the Boy Scout camp, and at the time of his death was President of the Toledo Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

The recent Y. M. C. A. campaign was headed by him as General Chairman. In the past he served as General Chairman of the Masonic Temple Campaign and as Chairman of the Community Chest.

He was a lover of art, so that it was natural he should be chosen a member of the Board of Trustees of the Toledo Museum of Art. Twice he presented beautiful paintings to the Chamber, his most recent gift hanging over the fireplace in the Lounge.

This same interest in beauty, coupled with his practical turn of mind and civic interest, is further evidenced by the fact that he was a member of both the City and County Planning Commissions.

Survived by his widow, a son and a daughter, he was a faithful, devoted husband as well as a loving and understanding father.

Personally known to thousands and universally loved and respected, his loss will be deeply mourned while his fine example and good deeds are long remembered.

A TRIBUTE TO THOMAS A. DeVILBISS
Toledo Blade, Noc. 10, 1928
(Editorial)

THOMAS A. DeVILBISS

Thomas A. DeVilbiss has passed on, but the good which he did lives after him. The impetus which he gave to important philanthropic, patriotic, educational, civic and welfare movements will carry them on for many years. The great business he built will long continue to give employment to large numbers of workers in beautiful surroundings and under ideal conditions. The encouragement he gave to clean and manly sport will not soon be forgotten.

Having as natural endowment a vigorous body, a keen mind and an altruistic viewpoint, Mr. DeVilbiss made the most of all his opportunities. Other citizens have built big business or have attained to position of eminence in some one line of community activity. Few, if any others have been gifted with such versatility or such wide outlook that leadership along so many lines was conferred as a matter of course upon them.

The unusual executive ability of Mr. DeVilbiss first attracted public attention when he built a very small business into a very large business and the market places of the world became his markets.

He was a valued member of the board of education, the oldest member in point of service of the board which built the beautiful modern school edifices for which Toledo is famous.

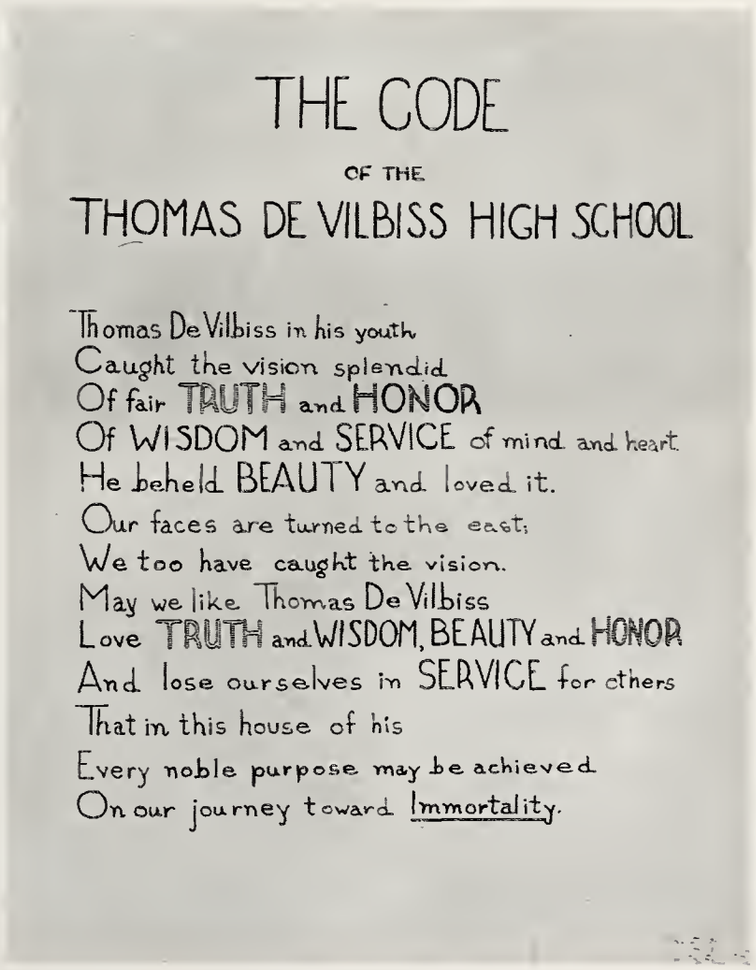
When the United States was drawn into the World war, Mr. DeVilbiss did much more than his bit in the drive for funds and in other activities. After the War Chest became the Community Chest, he was its president. When the Boy Scouts needed firm and effective guidance, Mr. DeVilbiss was elected president of the council and it was he who put a small fortune into the Scout Reservation. When the Chamber of Commerce looked earnestly for leadership, that organization sought out and found Mr. DeVilbiss who accepted the presidency. When the Toledo Yacht club and the Inter-Lake Yatching association required the services of a business and sporting pilot, Thomas A. DeVilbiss became commodore. He was general chairman of the Toledo Masonic building fund campaign committee and served also in that capacity for the recent Y. M. C. A. drive. On his death bed, he enthused over the reports of its successful outcome.

Thomas A. DeVilbiss was not an old man. Only fifty years were alotted to him, but he crowded a great deal into half a century, making the best possible use of his time and talents and wealth. He lived actively and generously and usefully. He hath done what he could.

THOMAS A. DeVILBISS

In addition to these tributes, the City of Toledo has erected to his memory, "The Thomas DeVilbiss High School," a beautiful example of fine architecture and one of the largest schools in the State of Ohio. "The Code", adopted by the student body, is kept before the youth as an inspiration to do better and nobler work in memory of one who made possible so many advantages for the boys and girls of Toledo.

In Ottawa Hills, on the Toledo-Chicago main highway, there is erected a large contrete and stone bridge, called "The DeVilbiss Bridge." Thus, there will be kept before the citizens some slight reminder of a great work done.





Thomas DeVilbiss High School, 1931, Toledo, Ohio



1-VII ALLEN DeVILLBISS GUTCHESS

ON JANUARY 15, 1929, Allen DeVilbiss Gutchess (p. 57) succeeded his uncle, Thomas A. DeVilbiss, as President of the DeVilbiss Manufacturing Company. Allen is the son of Lida M. Gutchess and grandson of Dr. Allen DeVilbiss. He has been associated with the DeVilbiss company since he was fourteen years of age, his major interest from boyhood always being that of the industry, in which members of his family were interested. He began by doing odd jobs for the company, then in its infancy. He fed a printing press, worked on various machines in the plant, and became a handy man while he was yet in school. He attended the University of Michigan. Upon leaving college, he went into the business actively, becoming assistant secretary. For fifteen years he had close contact with the Employes' Welfare association. He worked close to his uncle and has absorbed in a great measure the outlook and creative vision of his predecessor.

Allen Gutchess has three children, Carolyn Elizabeth, the daughter of Allen and Helen Mills Gutchess; Bonnie May and Allen DeVilbiss, Jr., children of Allen and Julia Bonwell Gutchess.

CONTINUATION of personal history of Thos. D. DeVilbiss, 1927-1932.

In 1927 Thos. DeVilbiss and his wife, Inez O. DeVilbiss made their second trip to Florida, returning in April 1928. They were planning their third trip to that state, when Mrs. DeVilbiss suffered a stroke that made her helpless. This occurred on the day following Thanksgiving, while all the family were present, and finally took her life on June 28th, 1929.

Mr. DeVilbiss tried keeping up his own home by employing a housekeeper, but this arrangement did not long prove satisfactory. He was acquainted with a cousin of his late wife, Mrs. Evelyn L. Griffith of Vaughnsville, Ohio, widow of John F. Griffith, and mother of F. Emerson Griffith, George A. Griffith and Helen Dorothy Griffith, now Mrs. Horace D. Lowe, all of Fort Wayne. Mr. DeVilbiss found the Griffith splendid farm home located sixty miles east of Fort Wayne, and near Vaughnsville, Ohio, very attractive. After making several trips to the home, one including a trip to Columbus, Ohio, accompanied by Mrs. Griffith and her sister, Mrs. H. E. Allison of Fort Wayne, Mr. DeVilbiss influenced Mrs. Griffith to give up her farm life, as all of her children were self-sustaining, and to accompany him to Florida as his wife. They were married at the Trinity Methodist Parsonage, Lima, Ohio, Dec. 11, 1929, by Thos. B. Roberts, D. D. They left at once for the Southland by motor, stopping at Miami Hotel, Dayton, Ohio, that afternoon. After spending a pleasant and enjoyable winter in Florida, they returned home by way of San Antonio, Texas, visiting a cousin, Luther DeVilbiss, and his wife and other relatives at Pearsall, Texas. They arrived at the DeVilbiss home, 2636 S. Anthony boulevard, on April 30th, 1930. A few days later all of those children of both Mr. and Mrs. DeVilbiss who were in Fort Wayne, gathered at the home of Mr. and Mrs. L. H. Dunten and enjoyed welcoming the returning bride and groom.

During the following summer they made motor trips, including Saginaw, Lida Pines, summer home of Mrs. Lida Gutchess, on Long Lake, near Alpena, Mich. The following winter Mr. DeVilbiss and wife motored to the beautiful home of Mr. and Mrs. Luther DeVilbiss, Pearsall, Texas, and from there accompanied by them they made many side trips, including Mexico and California. They returned home by way of New Orleans, La., Pensacola, Fla., Birmingham, Ala., visited Mammoth and Crystal Cave, Ky., arriving home March 30th, 1931 They had covered 14,000 miles, some trip for a man 72 years of age.

His present family consists of Laurinda DeVilbiss, now teacher of Home Economics at North Side High School, Fort Wayne, Ind. She obtained her B. S. & M. S. degrees at Wisconsin University. She maintains her own home at 2318 Woodward Ave., Fort Wayne, Ind.

Edwin B. DeVilbiss, Graduate of Purdue University in mechanical and electrical engineering. He has been with Pennsylvannia Railroad Company since 1908, in official capacity, now located at Philadelphia, Pa.

His children are Robert Alexander, student at Williams College; Eleanor Adelle and Janet McKay, students in High School. They reside at 705 S. Bowman St., Merion Station, Pa.

Frank Allen, attended Fort Wayne High School and is now located at Lima, Ohio, as a pattern maker in the Lima Locomotive Works. His children are Thomas Allen, student in Junior High School, and Bonnie Jean.

Bess Beatrice Dunten, graduate of Wisconsin University. She resides at 2423 Kensington Blvd., Fort Wayne, Ind. Her children are: George Louis, Adella DeVilbiss and Louie Heber, Jr.

Mr. DeVilbiss is a member of the Fort Wayne Motor Club, the Allen County-Fort Wayne Historical Society and of the Institute of American Genealogy.

E. D. L.

